# Jordan Times

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### Iraqi volleyball team travels to Lebanon

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi volleyball team has left for Lebanon to take part in a volleyball tournament, on the first such visit since Beirut kept Iraqi athletes out of the Arab Games last month. The team left Tuesday night via Amman for the tournament, which starts Sunday and is to be contested by clubs from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. Iraqi athletes were barred from the Arab Games staged in Beirut from July 12-27 after Lebanon refused to issue them visas, at the urging of its financial backers Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iraq has been largely ostracised in the Arab World since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Amid efforts from both Lebanon and Iraq to cool tempers over the Arab Games ban, they have invited each other's national football teams for tournaments in Beirut and Baghdad.

### 4 Jews accused of killing Palestinian

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police said Wednesday they have arrested four young ultra-Orthodox Jews suspected of killing a Palestinian pump attendant who tried to make them pay for gasoline. The four had filled up at dawn Tuesday at a gas station in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Arab east Jerusalem and attempted to leave without paying. The attendant, Mohammad Abu Sarah, 67, tried to stop them by grabbing onto the car and was fatally injured when the vehicle struck another parked car.

### CIA to oversee Jerusalem bombing probe

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official will monitor the probe by Israeli and Palestinian authorities into last month's Jerusalem marketplace bombing, the New York Times reported Wednesday. Special U.S. envoy Dennis Ross and Israeli and Palestinian leaders made the decision Tuesday to include the CIA's Tel Aviv station chief on a three-way panel investigating the bombing, the Times said in a report from Jerusalem citing U.S. sources. The newspaper said the panel would allow the U.S. to act as a referee in the dispute over whether the Palestinians are working hard enough with Israel to deter Islamist militants.

### Rebels slaughter 23 civilians in Algeria — papers

PARIS (R) — Suspected Islamist rebels killed 23 people in two attacks in Algeria, the latest in a series of massacres and killings in which about 800 civilians have died in two months, Algerian newspapers said Wednesday. "A terrorist gang" killed 19 people in Heraoua village in Ain Defla province, 120 kilometres southwest of Algiers, said Al Khabar and Liberte newspapers.

### Israel frees Lebanese man after 5 months

TYRE (AFP) — A Lebanese man held for five months in Israel for collaborating with Lebanese intelligence services was released in south Lebanon, Red Cross officials said Wednesday. Ghazi Gergi Matta, 40, was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Naqoura on the Lebanese-Israeli border, they said. Mr. Matta was arrested by Israeli forces in the Israeli self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon for "collaborating with the Lebanese army's intelligence services." Before being allowed to leave the zone, Mr. Matta was questioned for about 20 minutes by the Lebanese army. He told reporters he was held in two Israeli prisons and had been interrogated many times.

### Thailand, Israel sign prisoner transfer accord

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand and Israel Wednesday signed an agreement to allow the transfer of prisoners between the two countries, a statement from the Thai foreign ministry said. Thai Foreign Minister Prachuab Chaiyasarn and Israel's Ambassador to Thailand Mordechai Levy signed the accord permitting prisoners to serve their jail terms in their home country if both countries consent.

# King calls to stand firm in face of 'limited agendas' proven disastrous

*Netanyahu commits to lifting measures upon PNA 'anti-terrorist' action*

**By Tareq Ayyoub**
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AQABA — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday warned that peacemaking in the Middle East is facing a "dangerous moment" and urged Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to overcome differences that impede peace between the two sides.

"We have two options. Either to move ahead as human beings, to make up for the time lost, to stand firmly in the face of limited agendas and ideas which have proven nothing but disastrous in our common past or to put an end to that immediately, so that we can restart peace," the King said in a joint press conference with Israel's Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

"The minority seeks to impose its will on the majority and deprive everybody of peace. The minority has succeeded so far to achieve part of its objectives in replacing hope with despair," the King added.

The King said that the Israeli prime minister's desire to make peace was "genuine" and described Mr. Netanyahu as a "peace partner" in the path to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy in Aqaba Wednesday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

But the King stressed that the meeting with Mr. Netanyahu will not "resolve problems in a very dramatic way."

"I conveyed my concerns and he conveyed his. We had a very frank and open discussion and we both realise the danger of the moment and the need to do what is possible to overcome it," the King said following his talks with Mr. Netanyahu.

The King added that he will convey his impression to "our Palestinian brethren, to our American friends and friends around the world, of the conversation we have had today," His Majesty said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who arrived here with his Foreign Minister David Levy and Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, said that Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue until a PNA clamp down against Islamist groups.

"We would like to see a 100 per cent effort... what we would like to see is the fulfillment of the commitment to battle the terrorists, and as we see action, any action taken in that direction, we shall adjust and change our measures accordingly. By then, we

(Continued on page 2)

# Brotherhood values King's wish to revoke election boycott, says it is pending government talks

**By Sa'eda Kilani**
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordan's opposition Islamic movement highly valued His Majesty King Hussein's "positive" speech in Ma'an and said they are willing to reverse their boycott decision if dialogue with the government succeed.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Muslim Brotherhood leader Abdul Majid Thuneibat said the movement has demands but no pre-set conditions and is ready to negotiate with the government "to achieve the best for the country."

"We will decide [on whether to participate in parliamentary elections or not] pending on the outcome of the talks with the government." Mr. Thuneibat said. The Brotherhood's demands might not be fulfilled in full but "we will see if there is an [intention] to implement them in the future."

Talks between the government and leaders of the Islamic movement will commence next week after the Brotherhood "rearranges its situation within," according to Mr. Thuneibat.

The Brotherhood, followed by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party last month, took a decision to boycott the November parliamentary elections for reasons they said were related to the political atmosphere in the Kingdom. In a statement released by the movement, Islamists listed seven demands or complaints that they said were the reasons behind the boycott decision.

They claimed to the one-person, one-vote electoral system is an unjust law that strengthens tribalism and criticised the May 17 amendments to the Press and Publications Law imposed by the government stressing they were provisions that muzzle freedom of expression and leads to regression of democracy in the Kingdom. In its statement, the Brotherhood also demanded that the Constitution be amended to go hand-in-hand with human rights principles and progress of democracy here. In addition, the movement pointed to the need to improve the economic situation, freeze normalisation

(Continued on page 2)

# PLO condemns closure of its Washington office

**Combined agency dispatches**

PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS Wednesday condemned the temporary closure of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Washington office and said it was a severe blow to American efforts to revive the stalled peace process.

The PLO office suspended its operations at midnight Tuesday. Congress allowed its permit to expire by not passing its annual foreign aid bill as planned before the summer recess.

*The Middle East Peace* Facilitation Act, providing funds for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and allowing the PLO to operate an office under its name in Washington, is part of that bill. It will be taken up after congress resumes in September.

"It is a seriously wrong decision at this particular time when [U.S. special envoy Dennis] Ross is here trying to revive the peace process. It is only adding fuel to the fire," senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters.

"It is a severe blow to Ross's efforts and we hope the U.S. administration would work to revoke this decision immediately. We were told by the administration that it would do so."

The PLO's representative in Washington, Hassan Abdul Rahman, told Voice of Palestine radio the suspension "was a negative message to the Palestinians and harms the peace process."

Mr. Abdul Rahman said he expected his office to resume its operations in September.

However, Representative H. James Saxton, is sponsoring an amendment to appropriations legislation to impose restrictions for three months on U.S. contact with Mr. Arafat and his organisation. His aides say Mr. Saxton was motivated by reports that the PNA had misused contributions and by suicide bombings in a Jerusalem market July 30

(Continued on page 2)

# New beginning in Israel-Palestinian security cooperation — U.S. envoy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross, holding a final round of shuttle talks, said Wednesday his mission had "moved things a lot" and there was a new beginning in security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the Gaza Strip, thousands of Palestinians protested Israeli sanctions and accused the U.S. of taking Israel's side.

Mr. Ross, sent to restore security cooperation in the wake of a Jerusalem suicide bombing that killed 16 people, was himself caught in a bomb scare Wednesday. Mr. Ross, who had been giving television interviews in the Jerusalem capital studios building, was stuck there for about 20 minutes while a bomb squad blew up a suspicous object outside — a frequent occurrence in the edgy city since last month's attack.

"We have moved things a lot — we have had a beginning" in terms of reestablishing the security relationship between Israel and the Palestinians, Mr. Ross told CNN. "The proof is obviously something that we will see over time.

"We have a mechanism now where the parties will be working together — we will see how that mechanism works."

Israeli government spokesman Moshe Fogel said Israel was "waiting for concrete results, which we hope will indeed be forthcoming. From our point of view, we have to see if this security coordination will stand the test of time."

The Palestinians say they are willing to cooperate with Israel on security —

(Continued on page 2)

## Joint security talks to renew next week

**By Elias M. Zananiri**
*Special to the Jordan Times*

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The joint security committee of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel will meet next week with U.S. participation in what forms the renewal of Palestinian-Israeli talks on security matters, it was learned Wednesday.

Colonel Mohammed Dahlan, commander of the Preventive Security in the Gaza Strip, said the Palestinians will embark on specific demands from Israel to take effective measures against Jewish violent activities against the Palestinians, and mainly those of Jewish settlers.

"We insist on reciprocity too. We have done our duties and we will carry on doing our job but we also expect the Israeli government to take strong and effective measures against the Jewish terror groups and Jewish terrorists," Col. Dahlan said.

Speaking at his office in Gaza shortly before he headed back to Jericho for another round of talks with U.S. and Israeli officials before the return of Dennis Ross to Washington, Col. Dahlan said the PNA is not

(Continued on page 2)

# PLO to pay compensation for victim of '85 ship hijacking

LONDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is to pay compensation to the family of American Leon Klinghoffer, shot dead during the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in 1985, a lawyer for the PLO said on Tuesday.

*Ramsay Clarke told the* BBC world service that lawyers for the Klinghoffer family had reached agreement with him on an out of court settlement of their civil suit against the PLO, weeks before it was due to go to court.

He declined to give details of the deal, but said, "it is full and final settlement that was amicably reached between the parties, and all are satisfied that it as fair and just."

*Mr. Clarke said the agree*ment did not constitute an admission that the PLO was responsible for Klinghoffer's death.

Palestinian guerrillas seized the Italian cruise ship in 1985 and held the 400 people on board hostage.

They said they would blow up the 25,000-tonne liner unless Israel agreed to release 50 Arab prisoners in its jails.

Klinghoffer, an elderly *and crippled New York Jew,* was the only person to die in the incident. He was shot while he sat in his

(Continued on page 2)

# Berri attacks Canada, EU over Palestinian refugees

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri on Tuesday accused Canada and the European Union (EU) of plotting to keep around 350,000 Palestinian refugees in the tiny Arab country.

"The conspiracy is continuing. Certain politicans and Canadian envoys are working towards that goal and I think the EU envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos is attempting to do the same thing," Mr. Berri said before a group of young migrants of Lebanese origin at the national assembly in Beirut.

"We are battling against the settlement [of the Palestinians] in all forms in the same way we are fighting against the Israeli occupation [of south Lebanon]," he said.

In June, Mr. Moratinos said he was shocked by the miserable living conditions at the Ain Hilweh camp in south Lebanon, which is home to some 70,000 refugees and is the largest in the country.

Envoys from Canada, which chairs a multilateral committee on refugees, frequently visit Lebanon to assess the situation of Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian refugees live in wretched conditions in 12 camps across Lebanon. They were forced to leave their homes after Israel was created in 1948.

But conditions have deteriorated markedly because of a reduction in aid from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), currently in the grip of a financial crisis.

The issue of the refugees was not covered in the interim Israeli-Palestinian peace accords but is expected to be included in the final status negotiations.

## Israeli soldier who shot Hebron shoppers charged with murder

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli soldier who opened fire on an Arab market, wounding four Palestinians, was charged in military court Tuesday with attempted murder. Noam Friedman, 22, is also charged with mutiny and attempted enticement to murder. He faces a maximum sentence of 43 years in prison if convicted on all charges. No trial date has been set. Friedman, then an army corporal, fired 15 rounds toward Palestinian shoppers in downtown Hebron on Jan. 1, before he was overpowered by Israeli soldiers.

# Iraqi oil goes back on stream after more than two months

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq announced its return to the world oil market Wednesday after a break of more than two months but was set to fall well short of a target of one billion dollars in U.N.-approved exports by September 5.

"Today, the first exports of Iraqi oil resume," under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, read the headlines in bold red print in Baghdad's official newspapers.

The first customer for Iraqi oil, ironically, was Bayoil of the United States, Iraq's arch-foe since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and the ensuing Gulf war.

An oil ministry official, quoted in the daily Al Jumhouriyah, said the supertanker Arcadia was waiting at Turkey's port of Ceyhan to load two million barrels of oil pumped through a Turkish-Iraqi pipeline.

The Liberian-flagged supertanker was to start loading for bayoil Wednesday afternoon, the official news agency INA said.

The green light for exports came from the U.N., which said Tuesday it has so far approved 12 contracts for Iraqi oil, totalling 69.22 million barrels.

Oil Minister Amr Rashid said the previous day that around 18 tankers are to load 30 million barrels per day (bpd) by the end of August, less than half the amount it would need to export by September 5 to avoid losses.

The U.N. oil-for-food accord, launched in December, allows sanctions-hit Iraq to export $2 billion worth of oil every six months — in two 90-day periods — to finance imports of food and medical supplies.

The accord represents the first easing of an oil embar-

(Continued on page 2)

# King calls to stand firm in face of 'limited agendas' proven disastrous

(Continued from page 1)

could indeed bring an unexpected peace," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We know that we cannot stop terrorism completely, but we expect a complete fight against terrorism as promised in Oslo (agreement)," said Mr. Netanyahu, who was accompanied by his advisor for terrorism, Meir Dagan, during his four-hour visit.

He said that he wants the PNA to follow the footsteps of Jordan and Egypt in fighting terrorism to remove the "infrastructure of terrorist groups" in the PNA areas.

"There are terrorist people who are based in the Palestinian areas who provided the ammunition for the explosions and other assistance. Security cooperation is a key stone of the peace process but it must not be the only question on the negotiating table," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We have differences in views with the Palestinians but my suggestion was and remains that we discuss these issues on the negotiating table," he said.

"I think that our concern is that our ability to continue the process of negotiations and the progress towards peace could be very seriously impaired if the proper actions against additional terrorist attacks is not taken," said Mr. Netanyahu.

Prior to the expanded meeting between Jordanian and Israeli officials, the King held a closed-door meeting with Mr. Netanyahu.

Another meeting took place between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Levy, which included Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki and Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin.

Dr. Tarawneh said that the Israeli prime minister had briefed the King on the outcome of the visit of U.S. Middle East special envoy Dennis Ross to Israel and Palestine.

Dr. Tarawneh said that Mr. Netanyahu informed the King of the agreement with the PNA to resume security coordination but noted that the problem of transferring $70 million from Israel to the PNA has not been resolved yet.

## Netanyahu's 'static' and 'mobile' answers

**By Sa'ad Hattar**
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AQABA — Journalists had a glimpse on Wednesday into the kind of answers offered to the press by Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu whether 'mobile' or 'static.'

By offering to give a "mobile" answer to a Jordanian journalist, Mr. Netanyahu sought to add a touch of humour to the otherwise rigid joint press conference with His Majesty King Hussein in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba.

In a reply to remarks made by the reporter that all "mobiles," cellular telephone sets, have been banned from correspondents regardless whether Israeli or Jordanian, a grinning Netanyahu said: "I promise to give you a mobile answer, it won't be static."

But the Israeli premier proved that his stance was rather 'static' when it came to Jordanian demands for lifting the tight noose that has crippled the Palestinian self-rule areas since the June 30 suicidal operation, which killed 14 people in west Jerusalem.

An Israel Radio correspondent had complained at the outset of the press conference that his mobile phone was taken away by security personnel at the Aqaba Royal Palace.

On an optimistic note, His Majesty told reporters that he would seek to avoid any inconvenience in the future.

# Brotherhood values King's wish

(Continued from page 1)

of relations with Israel and enhance public freedoms.

In his speech on Tuesday, the King expressed his wish to see the Islamists participate in the elections and explained at the same time the obstacles that might hinder the implementation of some of the Brotherhood's demands.

The Election Law, for example, could not be changed, the King said, because it is substantially related to the resolution of the Palestinian issue.

"Until rights are restored and until those who wish to stay or leave the country make a decision... and until we reach a stable and final [solution] then we will enter a stage where equality reigns," King Hussein said.

Another constant principle that is not viable for change is the peace process. The King, carefully reviewing the historic realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict, pointed to the gains Jordan and Arab countries made and are bound to make if peace is to dominate.

Islamist leaders seem to agree with the King. They say there is no hurry in amending the Constitution as they demanded earlier. It could be amended in stages, they said. In addition the King's words regarding the Election Law and the peace process are justifiable and wise, they implied.

For the Islamists, when the King raised these three points, it meant two things: first that the Election Law, peace process and the amendment of the Constitution could be addressed at a later stage. Second, and more importantly, the Islamist leaders believe that the King's abstention from raising the remaining four points, means that the latter could well be on the negotiation table in their coming dialogue with the government.

Leading IAF member and Lower House of Parliament deputy, Mohammed Oweidah, expressed hopes that amendments to the press law, that were seen by human rights organisations and the press corps in Jordan as highly curbing press freedoms, will not be applied by the government.

He said the King's speech was a tacit assurance that these amendments, which impose heavy fines on violators of law and raise the minimum capital of weeklies to JD300,000, could be frozen until they are discussed and amended by Parliament.

Bassam Emoush, another IAF leading member and deputy at the Lower House of Parliament, told the Jordan Times that the government had no intention of putting the new press law in practice.

"The temporary law is inapplicable. It contains many contradictions," Dr. Emoush said. "In addition, I received 'signals' from the government that it does not intend to apply it."

Dr. Emoush seem to agree with the King not only on the Election Law but also on the normalisation issue as well.

"There were global circumstances that led to the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty. The government is not forcing anyone to normalise. It is us, Islamists, who should call our people not to normalise economic and cultural relations with Israel," he said.

The point most appreciated by Islamist leaders in the King's speech was what they described as His Majesty's keenness on the movement's participation in elections and his admiration of the movement's role and contribution to the development of the country and enhancement of democracy.

"It is a certificate that we are deeply proud of," said Mr. Thuneibat.

# Iraqi oil goes back on stream

(Continued from page 1)

go imposed on Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait. It was renewed in June and the second term started on June 8.

Iraq itself suspended exports at the start of June until a new food distribution plan was drawn up. It was in protest at long delays in U.N. approval of Iraq's contracts for imports of food and medicine.

Because of the break, Iraq now has only 24 days to export $1 billion worth of oil.

The Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey said that based on a low price of $16 a barrel to lure customers, Iraq is likely to fall short of the target by as much as $600 million.

Iraq has said the country has an export capacity of 1.8 million b/d, although foreign oil experts have put the level at between 1.3 and 1.6 million b/d. During the first six months, it exported at an average of 666 million b/d.

But Iraq has already stocked crude at the Turkish terminal and the oil pipeline from northern Iraq to Ceyhan is full.

On Sunday, Baghdad announced that it has dropped the Japanese, British and Netherlands oil firms which were clients during the first term of crude exports, apparently on political grounds.

Iraq has however maintained U.S. customers Mobil, Texaco, Bay Oil and Chevron, as well as Elf Aquitaine and Total of France, the Russian Lukoil, Agip of Italy and the Spanish Firm Repsol.

Turkey's state-run oil refinery Tupras said Monday it expects to start importing crude from Iraq on August 20. Tupras is to buy 1.8 million tonnes of crude up until December.

# New beginning in Israel-Palestinian security cooperation — U.S. envoy

(Continued from page 1)

but only if it is true cooperation, and only with the participation of the U.S. as a witness and referee. They have rejected Israeli demands such as carrying out mass arrests of Islamists.

"There is a big difference between mutual security coordination based on partnership and taking orders," Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said.

Israeli and Palestinian officials said a CIA official would represent the U.S. in three-way security meetings.

Mr. Shaath said the Palestinians insisted on the American presence "because we wanted a witness among us and a judge, because of the lack of trust between us."

Mr. Ross postponed his departure, originally scheduled for Tuesday night, until Wednesday to continue his efforts. He was to meet with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Wednesday afternoon and with Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu after the Israeli premier returns from a meeting with King Hussein in Aqaba, Jordan.

A Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Ross had put off his departure to try to talk Israel into easing crippling sanctions imposed on the Palestinians after the July 30 suicide attack.

"We are asking the United States to put pressure on Israel to remove these measures — especially since the situation is in a very dangerous phase, not only locally but in the entire region," Mr. Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said.

"Israel has barred Palestinians from travelling from the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Israel and between some Palestinian towns in the West Bank, and has refused to transfer millions of dollars in tax revenues to the Palestinians.

Mr. Ross has urged Israel to ease the sanctions, which he called "counterproductive." Wednesday he said he believed they would be eased "as security cooperation goes forward."

Mr. Fogel said Israel did not feel it could lift the sanctions as long as Mr. Arafat was "dragging feet" in regard to fighting terrorism.

Peace talks and security coordination between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in March, when Israel started construction of a housing project for Jews in a disputed area of Jerusalem. The talks had been about to resume late last month when twin suicide bombs killed 16 people in a Jerusalem market.

Israel has demanded the arrest of 230 Palestinian Islamists, the disarming of political factions and the elimination of militant groups like Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem bombing.

In Washington, a state department official speaking on condition of anonymity told the Associated Press that the two sides had agreed to exchange information about suspected terrorists, a key Israeli demand to resuming peace talks.

The cooperation on security makes a negotiating trip to the region by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright more likely, State Department officials said. Ms. Albright is expected to bring a major American peace initiative that reportedly would address some kind of freeze of Israeli settlement expansion and an acceleration of talks on a final peace settlement.

"We don't know precisely when the secretary will make the decision to come," Mr. Ross said Wednesday. He said over the coming weeks the U.S. would monitor Israel and the Palestinians' progress toward reestablishing security cooperation and then decide.

Mr. Ross' mission has been complicated by growing Palestinian anger over the Israeli sanctions.

On Wednesday, thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip protested Israel's policies, carrying Palestinian flags and signs reading "no to the closure and settlement activity."

"The United States and Israel are declaring war against the Palestinian people," one banner read.

Palestinian police blocked the protesters from reaching an Israeli checkpoint at the entrance of Gaza.

On Tuesday, protesters in the West Bank town of Nablus burned effigies of Mr. Ross and Mr. Netanyahu and an American flag. A group of Hamas supporters among the 5,000 marchers chanted "give us car bombs," while members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fateh paraded with assault rifles.

"We are sending a message to the Israelis and Americans that we reject their pressure on the Palestinian National Authority," said Amin Maqboul, a Fateh leader in Nablus.

# Joint security talks to renew next week

(Continued from page 1)

responsible for security of Israelis in Tel Aviv or in any other part of Israel, "we are only responsible for security in the areas that are fully under our control. We are not ready to carry out any arbitrary arrests based on inaccurate and random information we receive from Israel."

Characterising the relation between the PNA and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, as smooth and quiet, Col. Dahlan said his forces have refrained from random arrests, among Hamas supporters after the suicide bomb attack in west Jerusalem two weeks ago. "Israel until now has failed to determine who the perpetrators of the attack were and yet it demanded from us to arrest hundreds of Hamas supporters only because of their political belief."

Yet, Col. Dahlan warned that should the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank go on "the whole situation is likely to blow up."

He added, "it is a volatile and sensitive situation. Israel has taken a number of unjust measures against our people. Those measures are tantamount to racial discrimination and are very likely to blow up the whole situation."

A few kilometres away from Col. Dahlan's office in Gaza, thousands of Palestinian workers demonstrated next to the crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel. They demanded an immediate lifting of the closure and called on Israel to ease the measures it took after the suicide attack in Jerusalem.

Palestinian police troops and angry demonstrators shoved and pushed for some time during the demonstration but huge effort was made to contain the event and prevent further deterioration in the already bad situation in Gaza.

"My father works in Israel. He has not been allowed to go to work for the last two weeks and now we have a serious food shortage at our house... we cannot afford buying food or paying the school fees," said Yousef, a young boy of no more than 12 years old. He said he decided to join the demonstrators because he felt he had a point to make clear.

Meanwhile, a European Union-sponsored programme for food distribution started in Gaza where so far 50,000 Palestinians living in the Strip have been reportedly served with food. Palestinian sources praised the move but said it would not provide a long-range solution to the hardships of Palestinians in Gaza.

"Israel should lift the closure and should implement all the clauses of the interim agreements. Only then can the Palestinian people care for their own life without Israeli interference," said one man who was served with portions of food enough for his eight-member family.

## PLO to pay compensation

(Continued from page 1)

wheelchair and his body was thrown into the sea. After lengthy negotiations, during which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO President Yasser Arafat intervened, the hijackers left the ship on condition that they were flown to Tunis, where the PLO was based. Mr. Clarke said of the legal settlement, "there is no admission whatsoever of responsibility or liability and the PLO maintains as it has throughout that it did everything that it could to prevent injury after it first learned of the seizure of the Achille Lauro."

## PLO condemns closure of its Washington office

(Continued from page 1)

that killed 14 Israeli civilians.

Also, the chairman of the House of International Relations Committee, Representative Benjamin A. Gilman, is blocking release of $10 million in U.S. assistance directly to the PNA.

The Clinton administration has pledged $500 million to the Palestinians over five years, and the aid for education, water, sewage control and the like skirts restrictions on the PLO by going directly to projects on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Other officials said earlier in Washington that they would continue to turn up for work, as with two earlier lapses in authority in previous years, but would not technically represent the PLO.

The PLO has had a representative office in Washington since 1979 under various names. The office became the official PLO representative office in 1993 after Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo interim peace accords.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said the suspension would not interfere with contacts between the U.S. government and the Palestinian leadership.

Mr. Ross has held four separate meetings with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu in an effort to restart peace talks deadlocked since March after Israel broke ground on a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**
**Tel. 773111-19**

**PROGRAMME TWO**

14:10 .....Cartoons
15:00 America's Funniest People
15:30 .....He Shoots He Scores
16:00 .....French Programmes
19:00 .....News in French
19:30 .....News Headlines
19:35 .....Trivial Pursiut
20:00 .....Parenthood
20:30 Lois and Clark — Superman
21:10 .....Kung Fu
22:00 .....News in English
22:30 .....Feature Film
23:59 .....Step By Step

### PRAYER TIMES

04:29 .....Fajr
05:54.....(Sunrise) Duha
12:40.....Dhuhr
16:20 .....'Asr
19:27 .....Maghreb
21:51.....'Isha

### CHURCHES

**St. Mary of Nazareth Church** Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
**Assemblies of God Church** Tel. 632785.
**St. Joseph Church** Tel. 624590
**Church of the Annunciation** Tel. 637440.
**De la Salle Church** Tel. 661757.
**Terra Sancta Church** Tel. 622369.
**Anglican Church** Tel. 652826.
**Armenian Catholic Church** Tel. 771331.
**Armenian Orthodox Church** Tel. 775261.
**St. Ephraim Church** Tel. 771751.
**Amman International Church** Tel. 5516245
**Evangelical Lutheran Church** Tel. 824328.
**German-speaking Evangelical Congregation** Tel. 845457
**The Latter-Day Saints** Tel. 654932.
**Church of Nazarene** Tel. 675691.
**The Evangelical Local Church in Amman** Tel. 811295
**English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish** Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology*

It will be moderate and temperatures 3-4 degrees below seasonal average. In Aqaba, it will be hot and seas calm.

Amman .....18/28
Aqaba .....26/37
Deserts.....17/32
Jordan Valley .....24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**
**AMMAN:**
**Dr. Khalil Tushuq** .....757253
**Dr. Bahjat Bader** .....832642
**Dr. Nasser Ibrahim** ..... 830432
**Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi** .....893542
**Firas pharmacy** .....661912
**Ferdows pharmacy** .....778336
**Al Asema pharmacy**.....637055
**Nairoukh pharmacy** .....623672
**Al Salam pharmacy** .....636730
**Yacoub pharmacy** .....644945
**Shmeisani pharmacy** ....637660
**Najib pharmacy** .....847632
**IRBID:**
**Dr. Ahmad Qasu** .....281484
**Al Quds pharmacy** .....(—)
**ZARQA:**
**Dr. Walid Nabhan** .....995743
**Khalifeh pharmacy** .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

**Food Control Centre** .....637111
**Civil Defence Department** .....661111
**Civil Defence Immediate Rescue** .....630341
**Civil Defence Emergency** ...199
**Rescue Police** 192, 621111, 637777
**Fire Brigade** .....617101
**Blood Bank** .....775121
**Highway Police** .....843402
**Traffic Police** .....896390
**Public Security Department** .....630321
**Hotel Complaints** .....605800
**Price Complaints** .....661176
**Water and Sewerage Complaints** .....897467
**Amman Municipality Complaints** .....787111
**Telephone Information (directory assistance)** .....121
**Overseas Calls** .....010230
**Central Amman Telephone Repairs** .....623101
**Abdali Telephone Repairs** .....661101
**Jordan Television** .....773111
**Radio Jordan** .....774111
**Water Authority** .....680100
**Jordan Electricity Authority** .....815615
**Electric Power Company** .....636381
**RJ Flight Information** 08-53200
**Queen Alia Intl. Airport** 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**
**Hussein Medical Centre** .....813813/32
**Khalidi Maternity,** ...644281/6
**Akileh Maternity,** ....642441/2
**Jabal Amman Maternity** 642362
**Malhas, J. Amman** .....636140
**Palestine, Shmeisani** 607071
**Shmeisani Hospital** .....669131
**University Hospital** .....845845
**Al-Muasher Hospital** .....667227/9
**The Islamic, Abdali** 666126/37
**Al-Ahli, Abdali** .....664164/6
**Italian, Al-Muhajreen** .....777101/3
**Al-Bashir,** .....775111/26
**Army, Marka** .....891611/15
**Queen Alia Hospital** .....6022240/50
**Amal Hospital** .....674155
**The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery** ...865199
**ZARQA:**
**Zarqa Govt. Hospital** .....(09)983323
**Zarqa National Hospital** .....(09)900560
**Ibn Sina Hospital** (09)986732
**Al Hikma Modern Hospital** .....(09)990990
**IRBID:**
**Princess Basma Hospital** .....(02)275555
**Greek Catholic Hospital** .....(02)272275
**Ibn Al Nafees Hospital** .....(02)247100
**AQABA:**
**Princess Haya Hospital** .....(03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
09:35 .....Sanaa (RJ)
09:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:05 ..... Bombay (RJ)
10:20 .....Bahrain (RJ)
10:25 .....Beirut (RJ)
10:40 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 .....Colombo (RJ)
15:25 .....Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05 .....Moscow (RJ)
17:30 .....London (RJ)
18:55 .....Doha (RJ)
19:10 .....Athens (RJ)
19:20 ...Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:45 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

**Other Flights**
13:00 .....Riyadh (SV)
13:55 .....Doha (GF)
14:40 .....Shariqah (AH)
16:00 .....Rome (AZ)
19:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 .....Cairo (MS)
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)
01:20 ..Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
05:40 .....London (BA)
09:00 .....Dubai (EK)

**Royal Wings (RW)**
**(For Thursday and Friday)**
08:45 Aqaba (RW)
10:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20 Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20 Aqaba (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
06:45 .....Beirut (RJ)
07:20 .....Moscow (RJ)
09:10 .....Kuwait (RJ)
11:35 ..Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 ...Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 .....Doha (RJ)
13:10 .....Paris (RJ)
13:20 .....Athens (RJ)
13:25 .....London (RJ)
21:00 .....Madrid (RJ)
21:10 .....Cairo (RJ)
21:20 .....Larnaca (RJ)
21:25 .....Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:25 .....Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

**Other Flights**
04:00 .....Athens (OA)
06:15 .....Istanbul (TK)
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)
08:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)
09:10 .....London (BA)
14:30..... Riyadh (SV)
14:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30 Annuba (Algeria) (AH)
17:00 .....Rome (AZ)
21:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00 .....Cairo (MS)
02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)
08:45 .....Beirut (ME)
10:00 .....Dubai (EK)
10:25 .....London (BA)

**Royal Wings**
**(For Thursday and Friday)**
07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
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10:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 .... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

# Indian ambassador praises economic, political relations with Kingdom

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajanan Wakankar Wednesday praised close Indo-Jordanian economic and political relations.

On the occasion of India's 50th anniversary of independence, Mr. Wakankar told the Jordan Times that Jordan and India share many common political and economic concerns.

These mutual ties, he said, encompass close cooperation in the political, economic, educational and scientific spheres.

"We have extended an invitation to His Majesty King Hussein to visit India, and we are awaiting his acceptance," said Mr. Wakankar, adding that the King has already visited India three times.

Her Majesty Queen Noor has accepted an invitation to visit India in November to attend the opening ceremony of a school established in Pune by United World Colleges of which she is co-chairperson, along with South African President Nelson Mandela.

An Indo-Jordanian joint phosphoric plant has recently been set up in Jordan at a cost of $169.5 million, he added.

Royal Jordanian has expanded its network in India and now serves three different destinations: Mumbai, Calcutta and New Delhi, Mr. Wakankar stated.

The ambassador confirmed that India enjoys excellent relations with its Arab neighbours.

"We have literally two to three million Indian people working in Gulf countries with which we have historical ties dating back 2,000 years," Mr. Wakankar said

In its foreign policy, India has always adhered to principles of democracy, non-alignment, non-interference in internal affairs, territorial integrity and peaceful co-existence, he maintained.

"We have been actively promoting this policy and to some extent we succeeded," Mr. Wakankar said.

Commenting on Indian relations with Pakistan, the ambassador said both countries suffered from the legacy of colonialism and partition which soured the relations between the two over the last five decades.

However, with new governments in both countries, relations have been warming since last year and there has been positive change on all outstanding issues, Mr. Wakankar asserted.

"Now there is a movement of people, goods, trade and... security cooperation," he added.

At the time of independence India was unable to feed its public, but over the last half century, food production has grown four-fold, in comparison to a population increase of 250 per cent, the ambassador said.

Mr. Wakankar said last year, India's economy grew at a rate of 6.7 per cent and this year is expected to top 7 per cent.

The Indian ambassador added that the most important socio-political achievement for the Indian nation has been maintaining a democratic political system and keeping the armed forces under elected civilian control.

Highlighting his country's achievements in the education and health sectors, Mr. Wakankar said there are 250 universities in India including specialised universities in medicine, engineering and other fields.

He said that average life expectancy in India has been raised from 25 years a half century ago to its present figure of 56 years. The annual population growth rate has been reduced to 1.9 per cent and efforts are underway to further curb increases, the ambassador concluded.

# Man confesses to killing sister

By Rana Husseini
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — A 25-year-old woman was allegedly shot and killed Wednesday by her younger brother in an "honour crime," in the Eie neighbourhood of Karak, according to official sources.

The victim, Jihan Muhi, was reportedly shot several times in the head and chest by her 24-year old brother Farouq, who surrendered to police shortly after the incident, according to one official source.

The source told the Jordan Times that Muhi suspected that his married sister was "having extramarital relationships and (therefore) decided to kill her."

"The victim heard from close friends that his sister was seeing other men and he resolved to kill her," the official source said.

On the morning of the incident, the source maintained, Ms. Muhi went to her brother's home, and subsequent to a short argument, Mr. Muhi apparently drew a gun and shot his sister several times, killing her instantly.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday evening confirmed that a woman was killed and said they were investigating the incident.

Jihan became the 16th woman reportedly killed in the Kingdom in a "crime of honour."

In other incidents in the Kingdom, a 20-year-old man was accidentally shot and killed by his friend in Irbid, PSD reports said.

According to the reports, Qassem Mohammad was playing with a gun, when a bullet was accidentally fired, striking his friend Hassan Mohammad in the chest and killing him instantly.

Police have detained Qassem Mohammad and seized the weapon allegedly used.

# Jordan, Switzerland discuss health memorandum

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi Wednesday met with Swiss Chargé d'Affaires to Jordan Ernst Eichenberger to discuss a mechanism for the implementation of a memorandum of understanding, signed by the two countries, on providing technical and financial assistance to Jordan's health sector.

The memorandum, signed earlier at the Ministry of Planning, provides for a Swiss loan totalling 24 million Swiss francs to the Royal Medical Services of the Jordan Armed Forces, various Jordanian universities and the Ministry of Health.

Of this sum, four million francs will be utilised to modernise intensive care unit facilities in ministry hospitals and personnel training related thereto.

The two officials discussed the establishment of a central Ministry of Health and Medical Care workshop, to operate under the supervision of the Swiss government, in order to maintain medical equipment, including X-rays, intensive care equipment, and kidney and heart treatment departments.

Previously, the Swiss government donated JD 1 million to help Jordan complete the construction of a hospital in the Jordan Valley.

# *Women athletes honoured in ceremony*

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 15 women participants to the Pan-Arab Games, held in Beirut last month, were honoured at a ceremony Wednesday organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and the Women's Olympic Committee.

These Jordanian competitors won 13 medals, including three gold won by Nada Kawar, Alisar Matar and Zaha Talhouni.

Two women won silver medals and eight competitors won bronze medals.

Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ein praised the competitors for their high athletic standards and national achievements.

Ministry of Culture and Youth Secretary General Thouqan Obeidat, who heads the Jordanian Olympic Committee (JOC), described the winners as setting a positive example for other Jordanians.

GFJW Head Najwa Fawzi reviewed the federation's activities and expressed appreciation for the Ministry of Youth's continued support.

Women Olympic Committee Head Khawlah Kheir described her group as coordinating with the ministry and other concerned authorities to promote women's participation in sports and youth-related activities.

# *Al Arab Al Yawm — the first hundred days*

*By Amy Henderson*
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nearly 100 days have passed since the government exerted its authority over the press with new amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law and since the newspaper which promised to "revolutionise the Jordanian press" — Al Arab Al Yawm — hit the market.

The law has already had impact, lowering the ceiling of press freedom and taking its intended toll on the weekly newspaper industry — thus far, four weeklies have closed.

But the two main dailies, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, seem to remain unaffected by both the law and the new kid on the block, which hit the stands in May with much pomp and circumstance.

Two schools of thought reign over the opinions on the latest addition to the press scene: some say that three months simply aren't enough to measure Al Arab Al Yawm's full impact on the two traditional dailies, yet others claim the paper just hasn't shown the necessary muscle to make it "in."

"When I read it, I don't find anything new in its pages," says a professor of mass communications who has been following the new paper.

"I don't find any more or any less than the other two dailies have to offer, and sometimes, I am not sure if [Al Arab Al Yawm] has a focus," added the professor who requested anonymity.

When the multi-million dinar Al Arab Al Yawm was still "in the works", its publishers touted grand ambitions: to be the number one Arabic daily in Jordan and eventually to be a worldwide publication, with offices in other European and Arab capitals, and to be the first truly independent daily in Jordan, owing to the fact that the paper's equity would be entirely privately owned.

Its two main rivals, Al Dustour and Al Ra'i both have a substantial share of government ownership in their establishments — 32 per cent and 61 per cent respectively — which has meant that an internal censorship regime at both establishments was exercised to keep editorial content within the confines of "tradition."

It was presumed that Al Arab Al Yawm's owner and publisher Riad Hroub, who is also one of the fathers and former owners of the dynamic weekly Shihan, would bring "the spirit of Shihan" to the new daily, at the same time capitalising on its complete independence, to deliver a new product in terms of editorial content.

The paper's management also undertook an aggressive recruitment campaign, fairly successfully, to draw the crème de la crème from the local press corps, enticing them with lucrative salaries and contracts.

But, observers say, Al Arab Al Yawm has so far failed to deliver and has yet to make its mark.

The paper has, admittedly, introduced new aspects of news and the newspaper business. It has, for example, introduced a classified ads section, and has begun giving greater prominence to popular political life, dedicating two pages daily to political parties coverage, something which the traditional dailies have neglected, to an extent, for years.

"[Political parties coverage] is [Al Arab Al Yawm's] chance to really take the ball and run," says the professor. "But it's not terribly deep coverage, not very analytical. And people still rely on the weeklies, like Shihan, for this sort of thing."

It would be fair to say that Al Arab Al Yawm's emergence has inspired the other papers to become more daring or tabloidish in their style.

Also the paper launched an aggressive incentive campaign to attract readers, publishing free raffles for cars, electrical equipment and apartments. Al Dustour and Al Ra'i have followed suit.

Opposition figure Leith Shbeilat, contributor to the paper, says that editorial content may exceed to some extent that of the dailies, but he asserts that Al Arab Al Yawm still has not managed to raise the ceiling of press freedoms. The sentiments expressed in his articles are often substituted in editing with ellipses. An indication, he says, that strong feelings are still unwelcome in the press.

"I accept it," he says, "because I don't want to put anyone in court, but I will not edit my words myself."

Many have asserted that new amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law, which came crashing down on the press in May, shortly following a change in government, have played a role in keeping the new daily on par with the others. While the government may not exercise its influence through ownership, the heavy penalties prescribed by the amendments are a strong deterrent in keeping editorial content "in line."

A source inside Al Arab Al Yawm asserts that the government scripted the new amendments with Al Arab Al Yawm in mind.

"Shihan was a bulldozer for press freedoms," he says, "and the government feared that [this daily] would do the same thing — but still, the government can't push us in any direction, only the law can."

The paper's managing editor, Saleh Qallab, says that Al Arab Al Yawm has felt the impact of the law, perhaps to a greater extent than it would prefer.

"We are against this law," says Mr. Qallab, "and we have tried to come out strongly against it. To those who would say that we don't have anything 'different', I can answer only that we have four cases against us already... so we are somewhat controversial."

"It is true," says Mr. Qallab, "that the new law has put us more on par with the other dailies, but there is still a gap, and we are trying to widen it — it's difficult, but we are trying."

In addition to finding creative ways to overcome a harsh Press and Publications Law, the paper must also battle to attract the long-established readerships and advertisers of the established dailies to capture a substantial market share of both, long-term: a difficult task, at best, as experience worldwide has shown that newspaper readers are creatures of habit, and advertisements follow the readers.

Mr. Qallab asserts that Al Arab Al Yawm's daily sales lay somewhere in between that of Al Ra'i and Al Dustour. Al Ra'i claims its sales represent a 62-65 per cent market share.

"We haven't felt the sting of Al Arab Al Yawm . . . yet, and Al Dustour, our main competition seems to have maintained their same market share as well," says Al Ra'i Deputy Director Nader Hourani. "Our statistics in sales bear this out — our circulation has actually increased a bit over the past three months which means we have at least kept our readers."

Mr. Hourani explains that Al Arab Al Yawm is "sharing the market" — people have tended to buy their traditional newspaper of choice and Al Arab Al Yawm.

Another source from the competition speculates that Al Arab Al Yawm may have stormed the market during its first few weeks with a daily circulation and sales as high as 50,000 and 25,000 respectively. He attributes the figures of the first few weeks to the public's natural curiosity to try something new. But he estimates that the newspaper now circulates only half the original figure.

In hooking advertisers, however, Al Arab Al Yawm seems to be less successful. Al Ra'i, which carries the most ads and obituaries, seems still to have considerable advantage over its competitors in the scramble for the advertising dollar. According to statistics obtained by the Jordan Times, in June, the dailies' inside pages carried ads as follows: Al Ra'i 512 ads; Al Dustour 273; Al Aswaq 50; Al Arab-Al Yawm 44; and the Jordan Times 44.

Mr. Qallab says that he can't give a precise figure on advertising revenue, but adds that the management is satisfied with the number of advertisers the paper has attracted so far.

"We knew that we really couldn't expect more than this in the first three months," he says. "People need time to get to know us. Advertisers want to know if this paper is steady, and that's reasonable. We simply need time, and we think that in a year, we'll be well-known in the business community."

Sources inside Al Arab Al Yawm have said that the paper has been beleaguered by personality clashes and layoffs since issue one, when then Chief Editor Tareq Masarweh resigned as the paper was put to bed.

Al Arab Al Yawm sources themselves have offered a plethora of reasons as to why approximately 50 staff — out of an estimated 400 — have been laid off over the course of the last five to six weeks, and the press industry has speculated as to what is happening inside the institution.

Some have said that Al Arab Al Yawm is suffering from a financial crisis. Others have asserted that these staff were hired on a "trial basis," and were well aware of that condition. And still others have claimed that the management's rigorous recruitment of locals was simply a ruse to "neutralise" Al Arab Al Yawm's competition.

Mr. Qallab says he is well aware of these "rumours" and that the fact of the matter is that the staff members who were "fired" had only been hired on a temporary basis in the first place. He protests the notion that the management was trying to strike a deliberate blow to the rest of the industry.

"We hired more journalists and technicians than we needed," he explains. "To give people a chance, to see who was best — some were hired on a temporary busis, and they were fully aware that this was the case."

"Only 14 of those laid off were journalists," he says, "The remainder were technicians who proved themselves to be unqualified and, believe me, they brought us production problems at the end of the day."

Sources tracking Al Arab Al Yawm's progress have claimed that Al Arab Al Yawm management has recently asked investors to offer up the third capital instalment, allegedly ahead of schedule — an indication that the enterprise may be strapped for cash. They say the request has been met with reluctance by investors — mainly banks and individuals.

Mr. Qallab, however, flatly denies that the paper was already facing financial difficulties, and is, in fact, preparing to expand its domain.

"This company has four million shares, half of which are paid up," he says. "I can confirm that we can run this paper for two years without a profit, and in approximately six months, we are going to begin publishing in Jerusalem."

Sources inside and outside of the newspaper industry have said that in spite of all the paper's "shortcomings," be they real or imagined, they would not dismiss Al Arab Al Yawm's ambitions as building castles in the sand yet. The paper is after all, only three months into publication, and the above may simply be due to natural "growing pains."

For it would be rare for a new paper to expect to draw readers, and subsequently advertisers, away from a 20-plus year habit in such a short time. In the United States for example, statistics bear out that in such a capital-intensive and competitive industry, a newspaper needs at least two years to turn a profit and attract readers.

"We say in Jordan that a daily paper needs at least six months to a year to collect a readership," says Mr. Hourani. "Therefore, we can't fairly judge Al Arab Al Yawm, yet."

The paper is also dealing with unexpected circumstances, says the professor. "Maybe because of the new law, they can't do the things they had hoped [to do].

"But, over the years, in spite of government shares and laws, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour have managed to create a forum, which is what Al Arab Al Yawm will have to do under any circumstances.

"I tend to think it will be difficult for them," he says, "But really, they are so young — they are still finding their path, their voice, their rhythm."

# Abu Ein opens library conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ein Wednesday opened a two-day Jordan Library Association (JLA) conference.

Mr. Abu Ein underlined the importance of knowledge and information in local community development as well as in contributing to national progress and prosperity

Addressing the opening session of the conference, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, the minister described scientific and technological advances as only possible through knowledge conducive to societal development.

The minister, deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, maintained that cooperation and exchanges of books and publications, between the JLA and various library associations in the Arab World, both enrich libraries and encourage scholarship.

JLA President Yusra Ajamieh stated that the association, established in 1963, has accomplished much despite financial constraints.

The JLA has provided training to 3,500 librarians in 130 training courses, he added.

Twenty researchers and librarians from Jordan, Iraq, Algeria and Palestine are participating in the two-day meeting to review several reports and discuss new trends in library services.



Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ein Wednesday opened a two-day Jordan Library Association (JLA) conference (Petra photo)

# WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILM**

* "The Nutty Professor" at the American Centre, Abdoun, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

**CONCERT**

* Performance by the band of the National Circassian Folkloric Club at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITION**

* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedotti at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 647858) until Aug. 16.



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هكذا من الأصل

# Cambodia's Sihanouk asks Hun Sen to pursue peace

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk said Wednesday he has asked Second Prime Minister Hun Sen to end violence in Cambodia and work towards national reconciliation.

The king, in his first comments since a five-hour meeting with Mr. Hun Sen and a high-level Cambodian delegation in Beijing on Tuesday, also called for the country's constitution and human rights to be respected.

"I asked all of them to try to make an effort to achieve peace, cool down the situation and end war, insecurity and violence," King Sihanouk said in a statement from his residence in Beijing, where he is receiving medical treatment.

The statement was also released by the palace in Phnom Penh.

The king said he had asked Mr. Hun Sen and newly-appointed First Prime Minister Ung Huot "to somehow achieve non-violence, national reconciliation, peaceful co-existence, solidarity, mutual respect, respect for human rights and our national constitution."

Mr. Hun Sen overthrew his original co-prime minister, the king's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, on July 6 and later supported Mr. Ung Huot's nomination to take his place.

A Cambodian military court has since issued a warrant for Prince Rana-riddh's arrest on charges of weapons smuggling.

Political analysts in Phnom Penh said Mr. Hun Sen would seek approval for his new government in his meeting with the king.

But last week King Sihanouk, expressing strong disapproval of recent events in his country, called Mr. Ung Huot a "puppet" of Mr. Hun Sen and said he was dismayed by what had happened in Cambodia. He likened the situation to a "comedy."

King Sihanouk said Wednesday that his offer to abdicate had been refused by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen although his decision to return soon to his homeland had been welcomed.

"This delegation — in particular His Excellency Hun Sen — assured King Sihanouk of its fidelity and its support for the king, whose offer to abdicate it did not accept," King Sihanouk said in a statement sent to reporters in Beijing.

The king earlier said he wanted any negotiations on Cambodia's future to be held in secret.

A brief statement from the government delegation issued by the Ministry of Information in Phnom Penh said King Sihanouk had asked the delegation to assure Cambodians that the king was "working with all the people in the country."

It also said King Sihanouk would visit the northern town of Siem Reap "in the near future."

On Monday King Sihanouk, who has been in Beijing since February, said he would soon visit Siem Reap, home to the famed temple complex of Angkor, to hold a Buddhist ceremony for peace and reconciliation.

The Cambodian delegation also met China's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan, who was quoted in the statement as saying that recent events in Cambodia were an internal affair and Cambodia was able to solve its own problems.

The Cambodian government delegation, which arrived in Beijing Monday, was scheduled to return to Phnom Penh Thursday.

## Dummy air raids on Grozny threaten Yeltsin-Maskhadov talks — Chechens

MOSCOW (AFP) — An imminent meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov may not take place because Russian planes have been making dummy dive bomb attacks on Grozny, a top Chechen official said Wednesday.

Chechen First Deputy Prime Minister Movladi Udugov told Interfax that the meeting, which both sides said was to take place in coming days, was "under threat of collapse."

He said that at about 0900 GMT Russian planes made dummy attacks on central Grozny and the city's Sheikh Mansur Airport. This was denied by the Russian Defence Ministry.

The flights "had a clearly prevocational character and their goal is to stop the meeting of the presidents of Russia and Chechenya whatever the cost," he said.

Grozny had lodged a "strong protest" against the flights.

Mr. Udugov said a decision on whether he would go ahead with plans to fly to Moscow Thursday to settle the final details for the talks between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Maskhadov would only be taken at a meeting with Mr. Maskhadov later Wednesday, Interfax said.

However, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's representative in Grozny, Anatoly Chernyshev, told Interfax that he could not confirm the reported flights and was surprised by Mr. Udugov's statement.

The Russian Defence Ministry and the Air Force Command, said they did not have confirmation of the flights. The Security Council said it was checking the report.

Chechenya's 21-month independence war ended in August last year with the total withdrawal of Russian troops from the turbulent north Caucasus republic.

Since then there has been no fighting or reports of Russian aircraft, which played a major role in destroying Grozny and many other areas during the war.

A meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Maskhadov, their first since signing a historic peace accord signed May 12, is widely expected to take place within days.

Chechen presidency sources said it might happen Saturday, Interfax said.

Mr. Maskhadov has said he wants Mr. Yeltsin to agree to establish diplomatic relations and open embassies in Moscow and Grozny, as well as speed up promised aid for the ruined economy.

Moscow has ruled out granting independence to Chechenya, but Mr. Yeltsin said Wednesday that he was ready to support the Chechen economy.

"We must help as we have promised or else Mr. Maskhadov will be criticised there in Chechenya," he was quoted as saying by Interfax. "Extremists are blaming him for the lack of aid from Moscow."

## Taleban envoy appeals for recognition

WASHINGTON (AP) — An envoy from Afghanistan's Taleban government stepped up efforts to gain U.S. recognition Tuesday, holding talks with low-level Clinton administration officials and congressional aides.

Abdul Hakeem Mujahid, the Taleban's designated ambassador to the United Nations, said the movement's strict Islamic policies do not prevent women from working and education opportunities for them will expand once the government has sufficient resources to open women's schools.

Mr. Mujahid, who holds diplomatic office in Queens, N.Y., while pushing a claim to Afghanistan's U.N. seat, met with Michael Malinowski, State Department Director for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Afghan leader also scheduled a meeting at the Pentagon and with members of House and Senate staffs on Capitol Hill.

Last week in New York, Mr. Mujahid failed in efforts to meet with the General Assembly's Credentials Committee to claim Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations. The seat and most diplomatic posts are still held by the government the Taleban Islamic army drove out of the capital, Kabul, last September.

The Taleban has diplomatic missions in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and is trying to get other governments to recognise its representatives' right to take over Afghan embassies in several countries, including the United States.

The ambassador at the embassy in Washington, for example, is a representative of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who fled Kabul last Sept. 27. The embassy's chief deputy belongs to Taleban, however.

The U.S. government has expressed concern about Taleban treatment of women and other human rights and narcotics deficiencies and does not recognise any faction in Afghanistan as the legitimate government.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Mr. Mujahid said the Taleban rebels control 85 per cent of the country and have restored peace and stability in 23 of 30 provinces they control.

With opposition forces threatening Kabul, Mr. Mujahid said Taleban forces were confident they could hold the city. He said a Taleban withdrawal north of the capital in recent weeks was designed to spare the area from fighting while inhabitants harvested the year's only crops.

Replying to a question about widespread criticism of Taleban policies toward women from human rights and other groups, Mr. Mujahid said women work in airports, hospitals, prisons and with international organisations in Afghanistan.

"We are not opposed to women's education or their working but there is a difference in cultures" between Western and Islamic attitudes toward women.

He said that while women working in government offices had been reduced from 80 per cent to 2 per cent, the previous regime kept women in offices as part of a political spoils system or for sexual amusement, giving them low salaries and nothing to do.

"The Taleban sent them home but they still are provided with a salary," he said.

Mr. Mujahid said women could travel in safety in areas the Taleban controls.

He said the Taleban's main accomplishments were restoring security by collecting weapons from private armies and fighting corruption.

## *Rains swamp H. Kong, flood rural homes*

HONG KONG (R) — Torrential rain, floods and landslides have hit Hong Kong, with no let-up in sight in the territory's wettest summer in more than a century.

Some 300 mm of rain fell on the territory Tuesday, and the downpour continued Wednesday. Weathermen issued fresh thunderstorm warnings. Meteorologists said the past two months were the wettest rainy season since records began in 1884.

Floodwater swamped more than 1,000 homes in low-lying areas of the rural new territories Tuesday, officials said.

On Wednesday a landslide hit the same Tai Po district. But no injuries were reported.

Roads there were flooded and impassable for traffic. Scores of vehicles were submerged. People waded along streets that were turned into rivers. Family members separated by the floodwaters used mobile phones to keep in contact.

Pet dogs were washed away in the torrent. Fish pond owners said their fishery were washed away.

Firemen rescued children stranded in single-storey wooden huts and handed out life jackets at one location where floodwaters rose to four metres.

## *Remains of KAL crash victims returned to S. Korea*

SEOUL (R) — Korean Air Lines Wednesday began bringing home the remains of South Koreans who died in last week's Jumbo Jet crash in Guam.

Witnesses said aluminium caskets carrying the remains of 10 victims were lowered from a scheduled KAL flight from the Pacific island while airline officials, including Chairman Cho Choong-Hoon, looked on.

Aboard the same plane were victims' grief-stricken relatives, many of whom clutched pictures of their loved ones. A mother of one victim fainted at the sight of the coffin and was rushed off in an ambulance, witnesses said.

KAL Flight 801 was carrying 254 people, mostly South Korean holiday makers, when it ploughed into a hillside near Guam International Airport last Wednesday and burst into flames.

Twenty-eight people survived the crash but three remained in critical condition at Brooke Army Medical Centre in San Antonio, Texas, which has a state-of-the-art burns treatment centre.

A mourning site for the victims was set up Wednesday at an indoor gymnasium close to Seoul airport. White and yellow chrysanthemums filled the room whose walls were lined with pictures of 207 Korean victims.

Relatives streamed into the gymnasium, many of them wailing and calling the names of their loved ones.

President Kim Young-Sam paid his respects at the site and tried to console family members, witnesses said.

A separate mourning site was set up for 19 crew members of KAL 801, an airline spokesman said.

"We are not sure when the next group of bodies will be brought back," the official said. "The procedure is extremely strict for identifying and returning the bodies, so it could take time."

Matthew Furman, family affairs officer of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said 46 of the more than 150 bodies recovered had been identified so far.

But searchers failed to find any more bodies Tuesday after heavy rain washed away roads leading to the wreckage of the Boeing 747, officials said. Mr. Furman said he expected rescue workers to recover more bodies once the weather improved.



A soldier loyal to Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov changes his position during fighting with troops of the rebel Colonel Khudoyberdyev in the Fakhrobad valley south of Dushanbe (Reuter photo)

## Rebel Tajikistan colonel to step down, withdraw troops

DUSHANBE (R) — Rebel Tajik Colonel Makhmud Khudoyberdyev has agreed to step down as commander of his elite brigade and to withdraw his troops to barracks after talks with President Imomali Rakhmonov, a presidential spokesman said Wednesday.

"Khudoyberdyev has resigned as commander of his brigade and will work in another post," Zafar Saidov told Reuters.

"All questions between both sides have been resolved on peaceful lines. Makhmud Khudoyberdyev agreed without any conditions to move all his forces back to barracks."

Mr. Saidov said Col. Khudoyberdyev had made the concessions during two telephone conversations with Mr. Rakhmonov. He said the two men did not meet personally.

Earlier Wednesday, Russian news agencies said Mr. Rakhmonov and Col. Khudoyberdyev had begun talks at a Russian peacekeepers' base in the capital Dushanbe.

"Later today the president will issue a decree removing Makhmud Khudoyberdyev from his command, appointing him to another post," Mr. Saidov said.

All forces loyal to the mutinous colonel have moved back to their base in the southern town of Kurgan Tyube, he said.

The colonel's headquarters in Kurgan Tyube, about 110 km south of Dushanbe, contacted by telephone, declined comment. Forces loyal to Mr. Rakhmonov have been battling the renegade colonel since Saturday.

Col. Khudoyberdyev, 34, the politically ambitious commander of an elite government armoured brigade, has mutinied twice before in as many years.

He has also been a vociferous critic of a peace deal Mr. Rakhmonov signed in June with the republic's armed Islamist opposition aimed at ending four years of civil war.

He moved his armour towards Dushanbe at the weekend after fighting broke out between two rival warlords in the capital but his motives for doing so are unclear.

Col. Khudoyberdyev said Tuesday he had no plans to take the capital and said he had been provoked by what he said was the Presidential Guard's move on his territory in the south.

He lost control of a strategically important aluminium smelter west of the capital to the presidential guard Monday.

## Plavsic says Karadzic refused U.S. offer of safe haven

LONDON (AFP) — Former Bosnian Serb leader and war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic turned down a U.S. offer of refuge in a third country, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic said in an interview published here Wednesday.

Ms. Plavsic told the Financial Times the proposal, which could have led to Mr. Karadzic avoiding prosecution for war crimes, was put to her by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during a June 2 meeting in Banja Luka in northwest Bosnia.

The paper noted that the claim was likely to prove embarrassing for the United States, which has publicly insisted the former Bosnian Serb leader be put on trial.

It quoted Ms. Plavsic as saying: "She (Albright) said that within two weeks they expected me to tell the media that Radovan Karadzic had left Republika Srpska (the Serb-run entity in Bosnia) and that I didn't know where he was."

Ms. Plavsic, who has been locked in a power struggle with forces loyal to Mr. Karadzic, said she travelled to his headquarters in the hardline Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale to relay the U.S. offer but she was rebuffed.

"I'm really sorry he lost this chance," she told the Financial Times.

"I think this kind of offer would be reasonable... His reaction was full of animosity towards me," she said, adding she was against turning over her predecessor to be tried in the Hague.

## China slams Taiwan, warns Chad over diplomatic switch

BEIJING (AFP) — China Wednesday blasted rival Taiwan over the Republic of Chad's decision to restore diplomatic links with Taipei but stopped short of immediately severing ties with the African nation.

"The Taiwan authorities have practised money diplomacy and sought diplomatic recognition by taking advantage of the temporary economic difficulties of some African countries," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told AFP.

But he warned that Beijing would "never" permit a country to simultaneously hold formal ties with both it and Taiwan.

Chad's government should adhere to the communiqué it signed in 1972 when establishing relations with China, "or it will face the necessary countermeasures by the Chinese government," the spokesman said.

Beijing, which views Taiwan as a renegade province, normally penalises foreign regimes that recognise Taipei by cutting off formal relations.

On Tuesday, Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang and his counterpart from Chad, Mahamat Saleh Annadif, signed a communiqué of mutual recognition in Taipei.

The Beijing spokesman described Taiwan's diplomatic manoeuvres as an attempt to seek independence from China — or in official jargon, create "two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan."

"The Chinese government will make no compromise at all when it comes to such issues as the principle of state sovereignty and national unity. We are resolutely opposed to any act of the Taiwan authorities aimed at splitting the motherland," he said.

But he refused to comment on the status of Liberia. Both China and Taiwan claim to have diplomatic ties with the war-torn west African state.

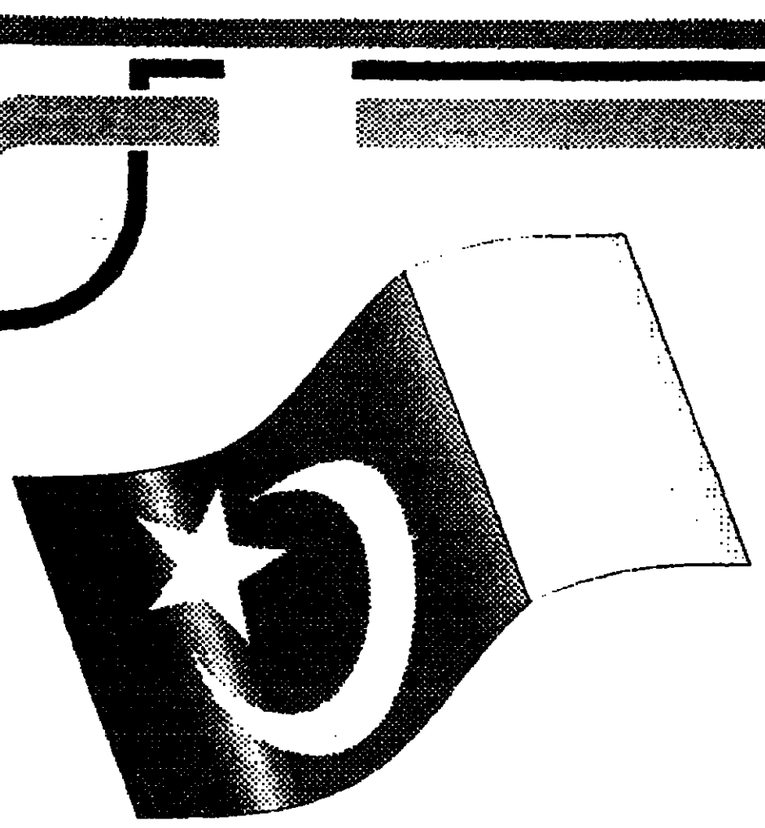
A total of 30 countries, including Liberia, now recognise Taipei. The tiny west African state of Sao Tome and Principe announced in May that it would establish full diplomatic ties with Taiwan, a move branded a "betrayal" by China.

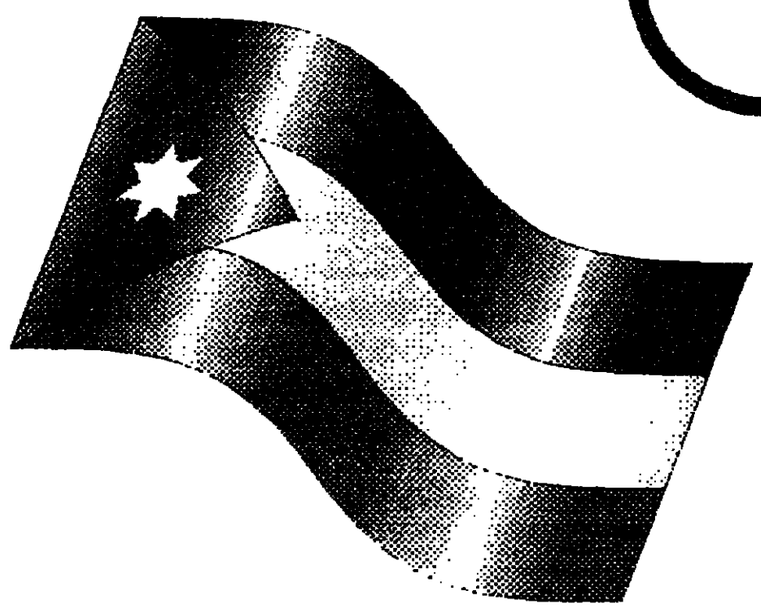
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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

*Editorial and advertising offices:*
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*Telex:* **21497 ALRAI JO**
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# King's power of persuasion

**HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's talks with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu in Aqaba Wednesday ended with little disclosures about the results of the talks. But this does not necessarily mean that the King has failed to convince the Israeli leader to budge on the lifting of the state of siege slammed on the Palestinians in the aftermath of the suicide bombing in Jerusalem last month as well as on laying the groundwork for the revival of the peace talks. Given the hardened positions of both the Israelis and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on conditions for the resumption of the peace process, quiet and behind closed doors diplomacy may offer the best opportunity for overcoming the hurdles created over the past six months.**

**During their press conference at the conclusion of the Aqaba summit, both leaders reiterated their support for the peace process in their own respective ways. Prime Minister Netanyahu stuck to his guns in public on the security issue as a separate item on the Israeli-Palestinian agenda that awaits vivid resolution. Israel's hard-nosed perspective on security as the highest priority issue must have been met by the King's position that security is linked to progress on peace and vice-versa. Indeed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had conveyed the same Jordanian stance when he visited Jerusalem last week for talks with Netanyahu. Against this backdrop it might not be fair to judge the Aqaba talks only by what was revealed. Whatever measure of progress that may have been struck during the Aqaba talks may have been deliberately concealed from the public for obvious reasons.**

**The Monarch is held with the highest esteem in Israel, and his power of persuasion cannot be more overemphasised. If there is any Arab leader who can talk some sense into Israeli leaders it would be the King. We are sure that the King has put his clout with the Israeli leaders to positive use. We have every reason therefore to expect an Israeli change of heart first of all on the indiscriminate sanctions being applied on the Palestinian territories. Once this obstacle is dealt with, the road would become wide open for the resumption of serious negotiations on all the outstanding issues still separating the two sides.**

**The Aqaba talks have also dealt with bilateral issues especially the long-awaited equitable water sharing. The participation of Israeli Minister of Infrastructure Ariel Sharon indicates that the differences on water have been dealt with at the highest level possible. Other bilateral matters must have also been discussed. Yet as long as peace across the Jordan River is still elusive, the ripple effect of no peace is bound to negatively affect Israeli-Jordanian bilateral relations. That is why Jordan is keen on seeing an end to the stalemate on the Palestinian front so that Jordan and Israel can go on building more on their three-year-old peace treaty.**

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Arab Al Yawm** drew a contrast between free trade zones in other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, and those of Jordan, saying that unless services in Jordan's zones improve, there can be no chance for further investments in the Kingdom. Khaled Zubeidi said that while investors find all kinds of facilities in the free trade zones in other countries, designed to attract investors and stimulate the national economy, investors in Jordan's free zones are frustrated with the low-level services offered. Citing the example of the Zarqa Free Trade Zone, the writer said that the problem lies with the infrastructure, like roads which are always dirty, absence of car parks and other utilities needed to encourage investors to come to Jordan. The visitors and the workers have no place to rest except on the pavements where they sit sipping tea or coffee and the restaurants and cafés are in pitiable conditions. Not only are the services poor, many investors are sometimes forced to travel to Amman, 40 kilometres away, in order to finalise a simple procedure, he added. He said that the free trade zones can be made to earn the country millions of dollars provided the will exists to achieve that goal.

A WRITER for **Al Ra'i** daily echoed calls by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the Arab Nation to rally to the help of the Palestinians in their confrontation with the Israeli aggressors. He also urged the Arab states to heed a call by Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, who appealed to the Arab governments to transcend their differences and end the embargo on Iraq. Sultan Hattab said that Israel does not differentiate between Arabs, when it comes to aggression and when it intends to impose its hegemony on the Arab Nation, and persists in its policies of occupation. The time has come for the Arab Nation to respond favourably to the calls of the Iraqi and United Arab Emirates presidents of rallying the Arabs towards safeguarding their own national interests and transcending their differences of the past, said the writer. He said that the Arab leaders should realise that Israel seeks to keep the Arabs in disarray, deeply divided and weak so that it can impose its will on them and secure its domination of the Arab region.

View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

# The current U.S. Mideast role — not exactly what is wanted

THERE IS no doubt that the return to the region of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross signals the resumption of what we hope will be a more concerned, dedicated and active U.S. role in peacemaking in our troubled region. The untimely disruption of the momentum of peace, since the advent of the Likud government in Israel, and the unfortunate deadlock and collapse of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis following the Hebron agreement (as for Syria and Lebanon, there seems to be no chance for the resumption of talks some time in the near future) raise questions about the effectiveness of the U.S. role, a role which has for some time now been either lukewarm or indifferent.

We perfectly understand a basic premise in U.S. foreign policy vis-à-vis the Palestinian-Israeli talks: the two sides themselves must sit down and work out their disagreements or points of contention with as little interference as possible. In normal circumstances, when the two sides are meeting and negotiating, we must admit that such a position (such a philosophic premise) is healthy and reasonable. The Palestinians and Israelis are grown-ups, and they should be able to resolve their differences in a mature, responsible way.

But what happens when the two sides cannot come to an agreement, when one side attempts to dictate its own terms and impose its agenda? Worse, what happens when the talks reach an absolute deadlock or collapse? Clearly then, as the case is now, the U.S. presence becomes a must: it is called upon to act as a big brother, as a patron and sponsor, as a referee, and as a presenter of fresh ideas. There have been times when intervention (by Jordan, by Egypt, by the Europeans and by the U.S.) was useful.

So, and on this basis, is Ross's return to the area happy news? Well, yes and no. Yes, because the Palestinians and the Israelis are stuck, and they need all the help they can, to get the talks started somehow (the loss of time is in the interest of no one); yes, because it is important to resuscitate the peace process which has been in deep coma for some time (longer than it should); yes, because an American presence of some sort is better than no presence; and yes, because Ross's mission, though it has not yielded anything impressive so far, may lead to more concerted and impressive results in the days to come.

But no, because with due respect to him as an individual and to his rank and office, such level of American participation is way below what is required. We understand, of course, that Ross is sent (or said to be sent) to pave the way for the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (who has so far been avoiding the Middle East). Such reasoning, however, is not at all as reassuring, logical and commonsensical as it may seem. For one thing, what do we want with a visit which paves the way for another visit (that of Ms. Albright) which itself will be most probably seen as an exploratory visit. The situation is too serious and the times are too critical to waste on visits in preparation for other visits.

The way many people view things in this part of the world, and this is perhaps where the truth lies, is simple. There has been a peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. One side (Israel) is procrastinating, is violating the agreement, and is (directly or indirectly) threatening to blow the whole process up. What do the American partners and sponsors want to do about it? We want a spade to be called a spade. We do not want to beat around the bush and get into visits leading to visits. What if the precious, long-awaited visit of the U.S. secretary of state is no more, as the case most probably will be, than an assessment and study of intentions?

***"We have always pinned hopes on America's assertiveness, involvement and courage. There have been times (not long ago) when the U.S. lived up to its obligations almost perfectly. It is called upon now to see the peace process through, to make its presence felt more effectively and to pressure Israel a little, if not for the sake of the agreements which have been signed under its auspices or for the sake of its Mideast interests and those of its allies, at least for the sake of Israel itself."***

The point here is that the present Israeli government seems to be taking us back to square one, as if Madrid and Oslo have never existed. The way things are going and the way it is approaching the matter, the U.S. seems to be condoning the Likud's determination to take us back to square one, though perhaps not directly. This is something unacceptable, and the last thing we want are words, on the part of the U.S. administration, about "clearing the air," "preparing the way for communication," etc. — as if the way had not been paved and as if communication had not started. This is an elusive approach which is neither impressive nor acceptable.

The second reason why one is not so enthusiastic (or hopeful) about Ross's visit lies in the fact that it has come largely in response not to the Palestinian and Israeli demands but to that of the Israeli government alone. What do I mean? Well, look at what Ross has been trying to do and what he has been saying. He has come he tells us to get the security talks between the Palestinians and Israelis started. This is basically it. Who has been talking and wanting others to talk about security? The Israeli prime minister. What does all of this mean? Very simple, it means that Netanyahu is dictating the rules of the game and laying out the terms of the argument and the concern.

The U.S., represented by Ross, is playing the game according to Netanyahu's rules. But it is not just Ross. Look at the speech delivered by Secretary Albright herself a few days ago in the aftermath of the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem. What has she emphasised and repeated in the speech more than anything else: Israel's security and the need to fight "terrorism" and "violence." Again, these are the rules, words and terms of the Israeli prime minister himself. Albright has not gone as far as speaker Newt Gingrich in being more concerned for the Israelis than the Israelis themselves, but she is getting close.

What is happening to U.S. even-handedness, neutrality and concern for all? We know that the U.S. has generally been more on the side of Israel than on that of its Arab "friends" and "partners." But recently, U.S. partiality towards Israel has been a bit more extreme than usual. Which is unfortunate at this point in time.

The Clinton administration did much better during its first term in office with respect to the Mideast peace than in the second term. This is not what we have been hoping for and expecting. Most were predicting that the U.S. administration would be more assertive, involved and effective during the second term. What has happened? Why this aloofness, detachment, indifference and fear of getting involved.

We have always pinned hopes on America's assertiveness, involvement and courage. There have been times (not long ago) when the U.S. lived up to its obligations almost perfectly. It is called upon now to see the peace process through, to make its presence felt more effectively and to pressure Israel a little, if not for the sake of the agreements which have been signed under its auspices or for the sake of its Mideast interests and those of its allies, at least for the sake of Israel itself — whose present leadership does not seem to understand what is in the best interest of Israel.

Enough exploration and paving have been done. The U.S. needs to act fast and bravely if only to redeem its image and the image of its faithful friends and allies.

# 'How many more Israeli and Arab victims before the international community finds the will to renew the peace process?'

By Eric Rouleau

THE EXPLOSIONS in West Jerusalem were only to be expected. How many more victims will the peace process claim?

It may be true that international relations are often marked with the seal of hypocrisy — either outright practised or passively accepted in the name of higher interests — but the duplicity which characterises the situation in the Middle East has reached excessive levels. Is it honest, credible or even useful to repeat that the peace process, in its Oslo or Madrid formats, is still alive? Any formula goes, it seems, in this game of deceit: according to the protagonists in the conflict and to the major powers, the process "has slowed down", is "compromised", "threatened", "wounded" or "dying", but never actually dead.

One could, if need be, go along with this lie if only it were to lead to the desired settlement. So far, however, it has merely generated fantasies and confusion. Whether because of corruption, incapacity or complicity with the new team in power in Israel, most of those involved have sought to deny the evidence that the accession to power of the Likud and its allies has smashed the very principle on which Oslo and Madrid were founded: acquisition of land through violence is prohibited.

Yet, it was clear from the outset that the prevailing balance of power, the extremist nature of the coalition, the voters' lack of awareness and, especially, the U.S.' virtually unconditional support would not induce Benyamin Netanyahu to commit political suicide by renouncing the ideology, the very raison d'être, of his party. Those who sought to endow him with an acceptable image have often praised his "pragmatism," comparing him with his predecessor Menachem Begin, who was supposedly motivated by "realism" in returning the Sinai to Egypt. This parallel, however, does not hold up for long under serious analysis. The former head of the Likud only made peace with Egypt in order to neutralise its role in the Arab camp and to go about quietly absorbing territories that, according to advocates of annexation, were part and parcel of the Jews patrimony, allotted to them by God and history. An ulterior motive of Menachem Begin's strategy was to invade Lebanon, with the declared aim of destroying the PLO, killing its leaders and thus guaranteeing definitive control over the occupied territories.

Netanyahu has been less of a hypocrite than those willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. It is true that the Israeli prime minister had promised to respect the Oslo accords, but he never concealed his determination to annex the Golan, the Arab sector of Jerusalem, and a hefty chunk of the West Bank. He consistently violated accords he was pretending to follow, and put forth a host of pretexts to avoid both the agreed-upon evacuation of parts of the West Bank and the continuation of negotiations with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). In further defiance of the fundamental principle of Madrid and Oslo, not to mention all the U.N. resolutions on this matter, not only did he announce that he would not return most of the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinians, by forbidding them from establishing their own state, he also devoted considerable funds to the consolidation, extension and increase in the number of Jewish settlements in these territories.

Seeking to preempt an organised Palestinian resistance movement, the only kind able to deter his policy of annexation, he discredited Yasser Arafat and the PNA and reduced their margin for manoeuvre.

Unfortunately, aides and collaborators of the Palestinian leader contributed to their own mutilation. Their attitudes, the brutality with which they repressed the opposition, their violations of human rights and their laxity in the use of public funds, not to mention the corruption some of them are suspected of, led them blindfolded into Netanyahu's game.

Given such disastrous circumstances, no prophet was needed to predict the explosions of violence that ensued. Everybody knew they were coming. French President Jacques Chirac, the British minister of foreign affairs and other Western high officials had publicly expressed their misgivings on this matter. To widespread consternation, not only did U.S. officials refrain from taking any measures to ensure that the situation would not get out of control, they also decided to interrupt their "good offices" in the region.

Washington, the optimists suggested, considered that it would be more useful to intervene "in the heat of the moment," after the violence exploded. A less cordial interpretation, which recent events seem to confirm, is that President Clinton, weak vis-à-vis his Republican adversaries and the Jewish lobby, opted for passivity, without gauging the risks he was taking.

Is this ignorance or arrogance on the part of the sole global superpower? It is difficult to decide, when one considers that the stakes go far beyond the mere spilling of Jewish and Arab blood. It should be obvious that terrorism is but a symptom and can only be treated if the ill that causes it is cured. It should also be clear that terrorism, apart from its terrifying inhumanity, can ignite a powder-keg in the occupied territories, and perhaps even beyond, and that, at the very least, it promotes tensions which threaten the stability of a number of Arab countries; first among them, Jordan, is particularly sensitive to events taking place in the territories.

Because it is incapable of acting, or merely too self-confident, the U.S. has accepted these risks. More serious still is its failure to realise that the "peace process" it started can only sustain and amplify the danger of coming catastrophes.

What is the alternative if U.N. resolutions, the fundamental principle of Madrid and Oslo, the terms of the Geneva Convention, which clearly prohibit the colonisation of occupied territories, and the international conventions which condemn, as violations of human rights, collective sanctions inflicted on entire populations, continue to be ignored? For much less, South Africa under apartheid was boycotted by the international community. At the time, the U.S. found it easy to uphold international law and human rights.

The acme of hypocrisy, then, would be to hold Yasser Arafat entirely responsible for terrorist activities. It is only to be expected that Netanyahu would seek to do so in order to exonerate himself, but it is shocking that President Clinton should fall into step unabashedly.

The Israeli security services, with all their well-earned reputation, were never able to eradicate terrorism, either before or after Oslo. It is well-known that they are omnipresent throughout the territories, including zone A which is theoretically under exclusive PNA control. Nor is Washington ignorant of the fact that Netanyahu's security agents were incapable of preventing Hamas kamikaze fighters from walking into West Jerusalem and blowing themselves up in an area which, precisely because it is a prime target, is heavily guarded by the Israeli police. Most astonishing of all is that the all-powerful U.S. was not even capable of taking a neutral stance by declaring, for example, that a long hiatus in the peace process opened the door to violence. This would have allowed it to avoid a head-on collision with its ally, while protecting Yasser Arafat's credibility. To demand that Arafat eradicate terrorism in close collaboration with the occupying power, and without even having the capacity to achieve this aim, is the most effective way of discrediting him entirely in the eyes of his people and, at the same time, of paving the way for all forms of extremism. Is this what the U.S. wants?

The problem, of course, is not one of intentions. U.S. aims, no doubt beyond reproach, are unfortunately masked by the policy the Americans insist on implementing in the Middle East even though they are not really able to accomplish it. In theory, the influence and even the hegemony the U.S. exercises in the region should make it possible to impose a settlement acceptable to both parties to the conflict, that is, a lasting settlement. But in practice, the balance of power within the U.S. political system prevents it from playing the role of an "honest broker." This bias condemns it to failure.

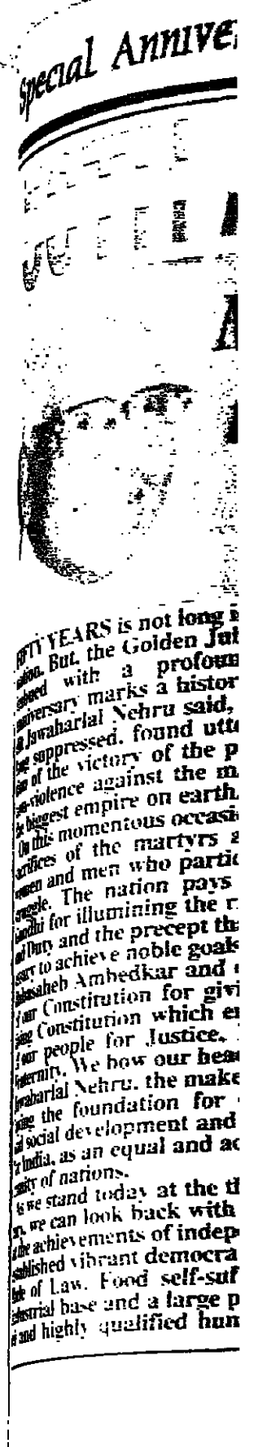
This is also the Europeans' opinion. Europe has often expressed the desire to contribute to the peace process, by offering the U.S. the counterweight it lacks within the American society. As early as the Venice Declaration, issued in June 1980, the European Union (EU) adopted a balanced position, strictly based on the principles established by the United Nations, without questioning the existence and security needs of Israel, contrary to the allegations made by Israeli leaders. In the quest for a solid peace, the only guarantee of their interests in the region, the Europeans repeatedly assured their trans-Atlantic allies that they had neither the intention nor the means to undermine the U.S. influence in the region, let alone offer a substitute.

Europe, the Arab World and the United Nations are capable of filling a major gap in the Israeli-American concept of the peace process, by setting clear, tangible objectives which may be summed up as: the evacuation of the occupied territories and securing the Palestinians' right to self-determination. All the ramifications of these goals would then be negotiable. The failure of the Oslo accords is essentially due to the lack of clearly defined perspectives, which makes this conflict unique in the annals of similar colonial struggles.

No doubt, the Oslo accords were useful to the extent that they allowed a page of the conflict to be turned. Perhaps they were inevitable, given the impasse in which the Israeli Labour Party and the PLO had found themselves. However, this process was killed by the accession to power of a coalition which surpasses all its predecessors since the creation of Israel in terms of its confrontational nature.

How many more Israeli and Arab victims will have to be counted before the international community finds the will and the courage to initiate a renewed peace process, this time genuinely based on the unavoidable principle of territory in exchange for peace?

*The writer is the former editor-in-chief of Le Monde and Middle East correspondent for many years. He served as ambassador to Turkey and Tunisia in the 1980s. Mr. Rouleau now writes columns on international affairs. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.*



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE



## Message from the President of India

**FIFTY YEARS is not long in the life of our ancient nation. But, the Golden Jubilee of our Freedom is imbued with a profound significance. This anniversary marks a historic event when, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, the soul of our nation, long suppressed, found utterance. It is a celebration of the victory of the principles of Peace and non-violence against the might of what was once the biggest empire on earth.**

**On this momentous occasion, I recall the glorious sacrifices of the martyrs and heroes, the brave women and men who participated in our freedom struggle. The nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi for illumining the righteous path of Truth and Duty and the precept that right means are necessary to achieve noble goals. We pay tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other founding fathers of our Constitution for giving us a dynamic and living Constitution which embodies the yearnings of our people for Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. We bow our head in memory of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the maker of modern India, for laying the foundation for democratic, economic and social development and for providing a vision for India, as an equal and active participant in the comity of nations.**

**As we stand today at the threshold of a new century, we can look back with a sense of satisfaction at the achievements of independent India. We have established vibrant democratic institutions and the Rule of Law. Food self-sufficiency, a diversified industrial base and a large pool of creative, talented and highly qualified human resources provide us a viable basis for rapid economic advancement.**

**The challenge before us, as we enter into a new millennium, is to achieve growth with social justice. The fruits of development must reach the underprivileged, the deprived and the downtrodden. As our economy liberalises and integrates with the global economy, we must ensure that the weaker sections of society are not marginalised in our economic processes. Indeed, as the public sector assumes greater importance in the economy, the State can and should play a more active role in meeting social and economic needs and concern of the poorer sections. Only thus will we achieve the cherished goal of Justice in all its dimensions — social, economic and political.**

**On the auspicious occasion of the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to all Indians, including those who are spread out in many countries of the world. I wish them happiness and success in their endeavours in the service of society. I also extend fraternal greetings, on behalf of the people of India, and on my own behalf to the friendly people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.**

**K.R. Narayanan**
President of India

## Greetings from Indian Ambassador



**ON THE auspicious occasion of the 50th anniversary of India's Independence, I offer my greetings and heartiest congratulations to all our Jordanian friends. May this day bring joy and peace to everybody. May the India-Jordan friendship grow to ever increasing new heights.**

**In these fifty years, we have experienced both successes and failures. We are proud of our achievements such as the green revolution, industrial development, democratic institutions. We have consolidated our democratic institutions and have brought about a social, economic, educational and cultural revolution in the country. Industrially and technologically also the country has emerged as a major player in the world. We are the first developing country to bring the population growth to 1.9 per cent entirely by democratic persuasive means. But a lot more is required to be done. We are alive to the fact that the continuing problems of poverty and unemployment still dog the country.**

**But the most important achievement is that we have earned the friendship of many sincere friends. We are proud of our friendship with countries like Jordan whose charismatic Monarch His Majesty King Hussein is held in a special high esteem not only in India but in the hearts of all peace loving people of the world.**

**The friendship between our two countries which are ancient in history but modern in outlook, is further cemented by the inauguration of the India-Jordan joint venture Phosphoric Acid plant in Eshidiya on July 21 this year by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.**

**The two-way trade of the two countries has already reached $250 million and increasing by about 10 per cent every year. The economies are complementary so that both benefit by each other's expertise, mutual trade and bilateral cooperation. On the political side also, the two countries are supported by each other in practically all international fora. Jordan's role as a sincere peacemaker has won it the esteem of the world.**

**On this auspicious occasion, therefore, I once again offer my greetings to our friends and well-wishers.**

**Gajanan Wakankar**

# India's 50 years of economic development

**By Abid Hussain**

WHEN INDIA got its independence after long period of subjugation, its land and people were a picture of distress, removed from great events of its past glory and splendour. A whole creative side of Indian civilisation had shrunk under the foreign rule. Common man burdened by poverty, hunger and ignorance had lost the will to exercise his productive might. Out of dust they had to be raised by men of great vision like Gandhi and Nehru. In his memorable speech delivered to the Constituent Assembly on 14th August, 1947, Nehru said: "The future is not all of ease or resting of incessant striving..."

India was a stagnant economy at the time of independence. The economy was predominantly agrarian with little industrial development. Most people lived in villages in hunger and despair. Bullock carts, wooden ploughs, spinning wheels and thatched huts: Almost still life made of small things — unimaginative, hard, dull and cruel. Agricultural growth was around 0.3 per cent per annum in the first half of this century. The colonial government took little interest in the improvement of cultivation practices except in the case of export crops like cotton, jute and tea. The railway system was built only for connecting the ports with the export production centres and the import markets; all other infrastructural facilities were lacking. Large factories, few in number, produced mainly consumer goods like textiles and sugar, intermediates like steel, cement and jute machinery which were mostly imported. Exports were seen as a mechanism to transfer raw materials cheaply to the metropolitan cities in United Kingdom which in turn processed them into final goods for exporting back to the colonies.

Social indicators were equally poor. Illiteracy was as high as 84 per cent; public health services were inadequate to face even epidemics such as influenza, malaria and cholera. The mortality rate remained high at around 27 per 1000 in 1947. Famines devastated human lives, adding to the interminable misery in a barren wasteland.

The first task of Indian government in the immediate post-independence period was to improve the material and human conditions of life by motivating rapid growth in a stagnant economy and to set the country upon a path for higher growth with social justice. The objective of India's development strategy has been to establish a socialistic pattern of society through economic growth with self-reliance, social justice and alleviation of poverty. These objectives were to be achieved within a democratic political framework using the mechanism of a mixed economy where both public and private sectors co-exist.

India initiated planning for national economic development with the establishment of the Planning Commission in 1950. The aim of the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) was to raise domestic savings for growth and help the economy resurrect itself from the twisted wreckage caused by colonial exploitation and the aftermath of partition. The industrialisation strategy articulated by the next Five Year Plan placed emphasis on the development of heavy industries



**The Indian space programme has developed a successful rocket technology**

and envisaged a dominant role for the public sector in the economy. The planners and policy makers suggested the need for using a wide variety of instruments like state allocation of investment, licensing and other regulatory controls to steer Indian industrial development on a closed economy basis.

The strategy underlying the first three plans assumed that once the growth process gets established, the institutional changes would ensure trickle down of the benefits of growth to the poor. But doubts were raised in the early 70s about the effectiveness of "trickle down" approach and its ability to banish poverty.

Though the growth achieved in the three Five Year Plans was not insignificant, yet it was not sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of development. A diversified industrial structure got established. Professional, managerial and technical manpower and skills got created. Meanwhile, the country had also witnessed calamities of nature, war and oil shocks. To accelerate the process of production and to align it with contemporary realities, a mild version of economic liberalisation was started in the mid-1980s.

The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) was launched against the backdrop of a balance of payments crisis, leading to the "debt trap" experienced in 1991. This crisis led to a second rethinking about our economic strategies and far-reaching changes were effected. India launched a major programme of economic liberalisation (stabilisation and structural adjustment) in July, 1991. Trade and exchange controls were further liberalised and structural adjustments were carried out in the industrial sector through delicensing and accompanying measures. The reforms as they emerged gave primacy to employment related growth as a means of providing credible solutions to the problem of mass poverty, an expanded role to the private sector, both domestic and foreign, import liberalisation, disinvestment in public enterprises, increased public investment in agriculture, physical infrastructure and social sector. These reforms also led to reduction in fiscal deficits, control of inflation, and reform of tax system to encourage efficiency and productivity through constant technological upgradation and determined improvements in capital output ratio.

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) is now being launched in the 50th year of India's independence with an ambition to achieve 7-8% rate of economic growth. The Ninth Plan without minimising the value of industrialisation gives priority to agricultural and rural development, provision of basic minimum services, creation of productive employment, empowerment of women and other weaker sections, promotion of Panchayat Raj Institutions, etc.

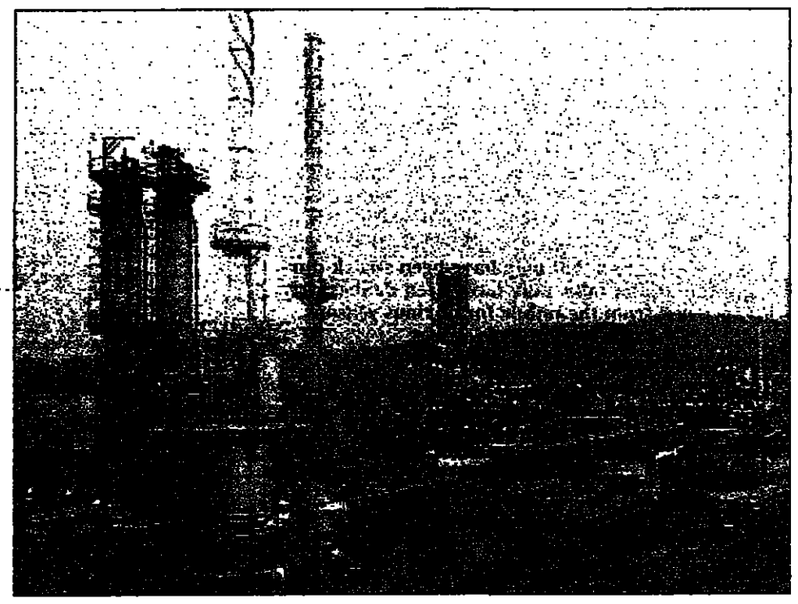
The performance of India's economic plans speaks of both our success and certain setbacks and reveals the extent to which we plugged the gaps in our development. The long term growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the period 1950-51 to 1994-95 was around 3.8 per cent per an-num while population inc-reased at the rate of 2 per cent per annum and per capita GDP remained less than 2 per cent. The turnaround in growth rates for macro aggregates started in the 1980s and continues in the 1990s. During the period 1980-95, GDP growth was more than 5 per cent per annum. The GDP growth has been around 7 per cent since 1994-95, probably placing India among the top ten performers in the world during this period.

The importance of agriculture in the Indian economy is well-known. In terms of growth, the performance of agriculture has been quite impressive in the post-independence period (a long-term growth of 2.7 per cent per annum) as compared to the pre-independence period (per cent per annum). The Ninth Five Year Plan projects to achieve 4.5 per cent growth in agriculture.

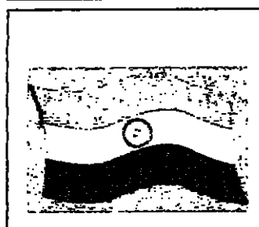
India is considered as the 10th industrially developed nation in the world. The share of industry in overall GDP has increased substantially since independence from 15 per cent to 28 per cent in recent years. The "turn around" in industrial growth seems to have stated in the 1980s. In the Seventh Plan, the growth rate was around 8.5 per cent. Since 1993-94, the industrial growth seemed to have recovered. In 1993-94, 94-95 and 95-96, the industrial growth has been 6, 9.4 and 12 per cent respectively. The composition of industry since independence has undergone significant transformation. A very diversified industrial base has been created. At the time of independence, the consumer goods industry accounted for almost half of all industrial production. Now consumer goods industries account for only about 20 per cent. On the other hand, capital goods which constituted less than 4 per cent now account for around 24 per cent of the industrial production. Similarly, the share of basic goods industries increased from about 20 per cent in 1950-51 to almost 40 per cent now. From hardware to software; from potato chips to microchips is the spread of production. A national consensus exists that we should raise our rate of industrial growth and quality of industrial products through intense technological upgradation and competition between firms within and outside.

The small scale sector is an important component of the industrial sector now contributes over 40 per cent to the gross turnover in the manufacturing sector, 45 per cent of manufacturing exports and 34 per cent of total exports and provides employment to 15.3 million workers.

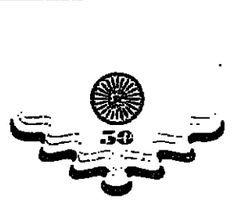
Finally, it may be noted that the country's current engagement in the process of industrialisation and economic development, and its efforts at integration with the global economy, require quality basic education with high enrolment rates and a functioning system of education down to the rural school. It is heartening to note that India has already created an infrastucture to cater to that need. We can take pride in the fact that India has the third largest scientific and technical manpower in the world. India thus is determined to become the sixth major power in the coming decades. A bright future is bound to happen. We are not only the children of our time but makers of tomorrow.



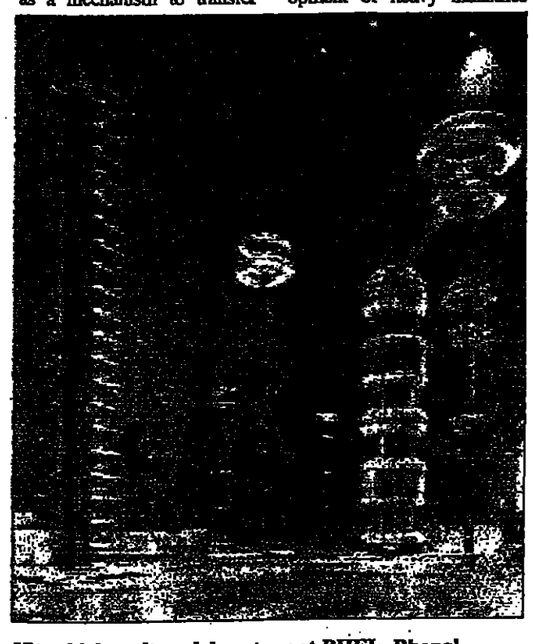
**Oil refinery of the Indian Oil Corporation at Guwahati**







**The Embassy of India**
**and**
**The Indian Cultural Association in Amman**
congratulate all Indians and people of Indian origin
in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the occasion of the
**50th Anniversary of India's Independence**
and would like to cordially invite them
along with their families to participate in a
**Flag hoisting ceremony**
and an Open House to mark the event,
at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, 1997,
**at the Indian Embassy premises**
located at First Circle, Jabal Amman
(Near Malhas Hospital).
**"JAI HIND"**



**Ultra hight voltage laboratory at BHEL, Bhopal**

# Muslims in modern India

**By Professor Rasheeduddin Khan**

THE PEOPLE of India are in the midst of a gigantic process of democratic, secular, federal nation-building in their continental polity. It is in essence the initiation of the construction of a new civilisation around a liberated people. Our diverse people — multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-regional and newly freed from the shackles of foreign thraldom, have been struggling to emancipate themselves from feudal exploitation, religious obscurantism and inequalities of social and economic existence.

The quest for a new civilisation in India, pursued through the methods of persuasion and consent, and based on the values of democracy like egalitarianism, adult franchise, representative institutions, rule of law, secularisation of polity and distributive justice in economy, is an on-going process.

It is in this context and framework that one should locate and comprehend the character and process of emerging Muslim identity in modern India. This identity is being shaped by the interaction of at least four factors:

- basic norms and values propagated by Islam;
- the heritage of Islam in India;
- India's socio-cultural situation; and
- the process of federal-nation building in India.

In the long and complex process of human development, the historic contribution of Islam is its emphasis on five cardinal tenets, namely, Unity of God (Tauhid); universality of faith (Din); fraternity of mankind; organic unity between obligations to God and obligations towards his creatures; and Justice (Adl); as the axial principle of governance and social peace and order.

Islam in India is a confluence of at least four major regional, linguistic and cultural variations — the Arab, the Turkish, the Persian and the Afghan. They had converged to lay the substratum of a new and distinct heritage of Islam in India. What provides novelty to the spirit of Islam in this ancient land is the fact that in no other place did it encounter a more than a thousand years-old and radically dissimilar and existentially more resilient Hindu civilisation which was neither fully "conquered" nor "assimilated." Nor could it in turn "conquer" nor "assimilate" Islam which nevertheless, is a typical Indian phenomenon in its many ramifications.



Friday prayers at Hazratbal Mosque, Srinagar

One of the most formative influences in the making of the Muslim ethos in India has been that of Sufism. Saints like Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti of Ajmer (1142-1236); Khwaja Fariduddin Ganj Shakar, better known as Baba Farid (1174-1265) and Khwaja Nizamuddin Aulia (1238-1325) were essentially humanists par excellence who drew to themselves persons of all castes and creed.

These "Saints of the people" were among the finest specimens of mankind known to any part of the world. They built bridges between the orthodox and the heterodox, the rich and the poor and between groups and communities. The Indo-Muslim strands have woven into the texture of India's national existence a rich design of "composite culture," by intertwining the threads of the Bhakti Marg with the Islamic Sufi (mystic) traditions, thereby creating a new inter-cultural synthesis. It is not surprising, therefore, to realise that the composite culture in India originated in an environment of reconciliation rather than of confrontation, co-existence rather than of mutual annihilation.

Hindus and Muslims constitute the two major religious communities in India. And only they have an all India spread. All other religious communities are regional and sub-regional in their dimension. The Muslims in India constitute an aggregate of about 100 million people, which apart from being the second largest Muslim population in the whole world (next only to Indonesia), represents a population figure bigger than that of 140 out of the 170 odd sovereign states of the world. The Muslims have played a historical role in shaping the medieval society in India and its composite culture, architecture, calligraphy, miniature, paintings, handicrafts, handloom, music, poetry, literature of mystic humanism, culinary arts and sartorial fashions. Only in numerical proportion they are a minority. Otherwise, in terms of their absolute number, socio-cultural heritage and political relevance the Muslims constitute the second dominant segment of the Indian people.

India has launched a gigantic process of federal-nation building. In terms of socio-cultural diversities India is bigger than a country, larger than a nation and more than a mere state. It is a defined civilisation with all its varieties. Centuries of co-existence of its many segments have given it an impress of "unity in diversity." It is in this context that India should be called Federal Nation. Its hallmark is unity of polity and plurality of society. It is in such a federal democratic polity that the new Muslim identity is emerging.

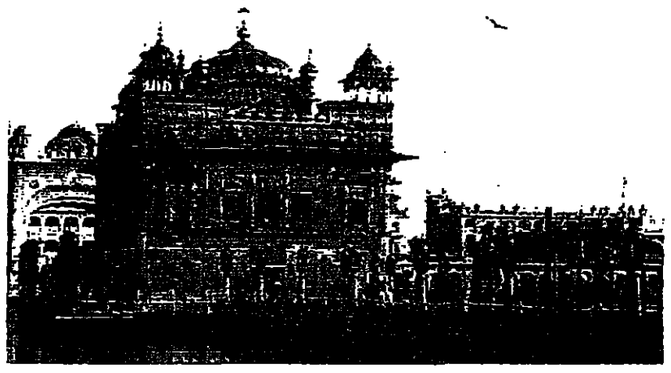
In practically every sphere of life, some of these leading Indians in contemporary times have been Muslims, be they scientists, artists, architects, actors, journalists, Judges and Chief Justices, Vice-Presidents of the Republic. Like the Hindus, the Muslims being a multi-regional, multi-lingual, multi-sect and multi-professional population, there are wide variations in their specific group identities. In more realistic terms, there are Muslims communities (plural) rather than a Muslim community (singular) in India. And these communities are spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. But in the context of secular-federal-nation building, the Muslims will have to play their legitimate role in stabilising the foundations of new democratic-secular India by increasing participation as equal citizens.



San Thome Cathedral, Madras



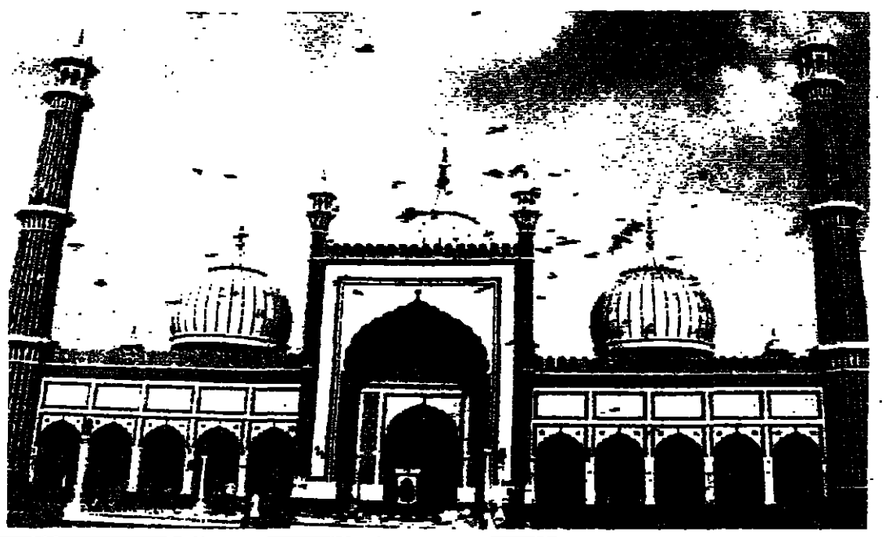
Kedar Nath Hindu Temple, Uttar Pradesh



The Golden Temple, Amritsar, a Sikh shrine

## Secular India

*— a photo feature*



The Jama Masjid, Delhi




GOD BLESS
INDIA
AND
JORDAN



ON THE OCCASION OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

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THE LOYAL FRIENDSHIP RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF JORDAN AND INDIA
UNDER THE WISE LEADERSHIPS OF

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN BEN TALAL
AND
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AND EXTENDS ITS WISHES FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

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Indo Jordan Scholar Club
CONGRATULATES THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA AND THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN AMMAN-JORDAN.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE
DR. NASER AL-MAAITAH, DIRECTOR OF ZARQA UNIVERSITY SERVICES EST.
CONGRATULATES THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA AND THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN AMMAN-JORDAN.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE
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CONGRATULATES THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF INDIA AND THEIR FRIENDS IN INDIAN EMBASSY IN AMMAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
"50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE"

# FIFTY YEARS OF INDO-JORDAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

THE REPUBLIC of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan enjoy cordial and friendly relations based on deep political understanding and mutually beneficial trade and commerce. Apart from being the lands of ancient civilisations, both the countries share a common colonial past. Jordan and India broke free from the colonial fetters and emerged as independent sovereign entities, almost at the same time, in 1946 and 1947 respectively.

India and Jordan signed their first bilateral agreement for cooperation and friendly relations in 1947, which was formalised in 1950 with the establishing of full-fledged diplomatic ties. The Indian Embassy in Amman was set up at Charge d'affaires' level in 1965 and upgraded to Ambassadorial level in 1978. During the last 50 years, the friendly relations have been further consolidated encompassing political, economic, trade, scientific and education spheres and there has been commendable cooperation between the two countries over the years. Several high-level visits including the visits to India by HM King Hussein (three visits) and HRH Crown Prince El Hassan Bin Talal (5 visits) and visit to Jordan by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (1988) have further given impetus to Indo-Jordanian relations. The increased high-level interaction have helped in appreciating each other's stand on several international issues. Jordan continues to support India in various international fora including the United Nations. India was also among the first countries to welcome the signing of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel and Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs represented India at the signing ceremony of the peace treaty at Wadi Araba on October 26, 1994.



His Majesty King Hussein with the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

## Bilateral visits

HM King Hussein first visited India in 1963. In 1983, the King again visited India to attend the 7th Non-Aligned Summit Conference. This was followed by a state visit to India in October 1986, which gave a further boost to the bilateral ties.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan's visit to India in December 1976 opened up new vistas in bilateral cooperation, with the focus shifting from political to economic, technical and cultural aspects. During the visit, the two countries concluded agreements on economic and technical cooperation and on cooperation in science and technology. The Crown Prince's subsequent visits to India in 1979 and 1982 further strengthened the bilateral relations and helped in evolving a common perception on several international issues of mutual concern, especially those related to the Middle East. He visited New Delhi in November 1984 to attend the funeral of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. His most recent visit was in April 1988 in which he evinced keen interest in further promoting cooperation in economic, industrial and scientific fields. At his initiative, an Indo-Jordan Conference was held in Amman in June 1989, which was attended by 17 leading Indian industrialists. The Trade Fair Authority of India also organised the first ever exclusive Indian exhibition in Amman from September 14 to 22, 1989. Exchange of many commercial, economic and scientific delegations have continued ever since.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Jordan in July 1988. During this visit, many decisions to further consolidate and diversify the economic and industrial cooperation as well as cooperation in the field of science and technology were taken. This led to the visits of a number of leading Indian scientists like Dr. V.S. Arunachalam, Sam Pitroda and Dr. Kurien to Jordan.

Apart from these, there have also been several ministerial visits from India during the last 50 years, the latest being that of the minister for chemicals & fertilisers, Mr. M. Arunachalam, in July 1997 to participate in the inauguration of the prestigious joint venture phosphoric acid complex of Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co. Ltd. at Eshidiya by HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

There have also been several high-level ministerial visits from Jordan to India, notable among which were the visit by the Jordanian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Mansour Ben Tarif in March 1995 and the visit by Minister of Supply, Mr. Munir Snobar in October 1996.

## Trade ties

Indo-Jordanian trade is governed by an agreement signed in 1976, under which a Trade and Economic Joint Committee promotes and monitors the progress. The agreement signed in Amman on February 24, 1976 replaced the earlier agreement of 1963. The agreement was initially valid for five years but provides for automatic renewal every year. Under the terms of the agreement, so far seven Indo-Jordanian Trade and Economic Joint Committee meetings have been held, the last being in Amman in March 1996.

Over the years, the trade between the two countries have grown rapidly. Although the balance of trade has been in favour of Jordan, during the last few years, Indian exports have also shown encouraging progress. The total bilateral trade recorded in 1995 was $233 million, which, however, fell to US$190 million in 1996, primarily due to the non-implementation of various import orders placed by India towards the end of the year. In 1996, while India's imports from Jordan declined by almost 28 per cent, its exports to the Kingdom registered a six per cent increase over the preceding year. Consequently, the trade imbalance also narrowed down to $41 million in 1996 from $93 million in the preceding year.

India's exports to Jordan which were only $7 million in 1988 went up to $74 million in 1996, a 10-fold increase in just eight years. As per projections, the bilateral trade figures are expected to reach the $300 million mark with the commissioning of the joint venture, Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co., whose entire produce of phosphoric acid will be destined for India in line with an 11-year buy-back arrangement.

Since 1990-91, India became the number one importer for Jordan. In non-oil category, Jordan tops the list of exporters to India from the Middle East/Gulf region, relegating Iraq to the second position. The main items of India's imports from Jordan are rock phosphate, potash and DAP. India exports to Jordan wheat, rice, heavy machinery, laboratory equipment, engineering goods, hand tools, automobiles, auto spare parts, frozen meat, soybean meal, explosives, bulk drugs and basic chemicals.

As part of Jordan's appreciation of India's importance as a trading and industrial partner, and to offset the adverse balance of trade, the Kingdom awarded a number of projects to leading Indian companies, notable among which were the construction of three fly-over projects worth $14 million in Amman and a $4 million railway workshop project at Aqaba. A prestigious concrete highway project worth nearly $110 million was also implemented by an Indian construction company. Another Indian company, M/s RITES India Ltd provided technical assistance to Jordan against three separate contracts with the Aqaba Railway Corporation between 1980 and 1988.

A significant achievement in the Indo-Jordanian relations has been the signing of a joint venture agreement between M/s Southern Petrochemical Industries Company Ltd (SPIC) of India and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) for setting up a $169.5 million phosphoric acid plant at Eshidiya in South Jordan. The joint venture, M/s Indo-Jordan Chemical Company (IJCC) has already commenced production on schedule and within the estimated costs. The joint venture agreement provides for an 11-year buy-back facility by India of the annual production of 224,000 MT of phosphoric acid.

## Culture, Education & Tourism

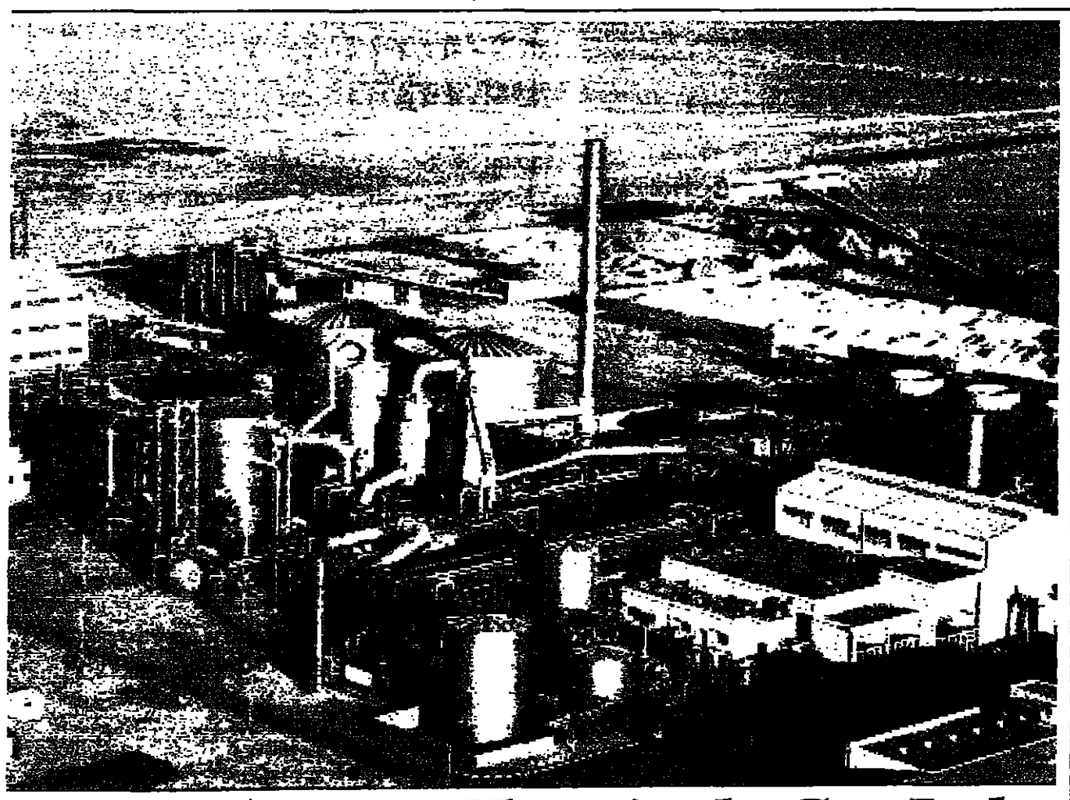
The Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was first signed on 15th February, 1976 in Amman. The agreement continues to be renewed periodically for strengthening cultural relations between the two countries.

The agreement envisages cooperation in the fields of education, art and culture, tourism, information and mass media, sports, social development, health and direct interaction between the scientific and research institutions. In April 1985, Jordan and India signed a Protocol for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations offers about seven scholarships to meritorious students to pursue higher studies in India. The government of India also offers training to Jordanian government officers under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme every year, which is under the purview of the Cultural Exchange Programme. In the recent past, a few prominent personalities like HRH Princess Wijdan, and a delegation led by the president of the University of Jordan, have visited India under the Cultural Exchange Programme. Military delegations from the Royal Jordanian War College and the Royal Jordanian Staff College have also visited India.

In addition, a large number of Jordanian students prefer to go to India on self-financing basis for pursuing higher studies in various Indian universities. There are over 500 Jordanian students pursuing studies in different universities in India. The number of Jordanian Alumni of Indian universities is over 2,500.

In February 1987, the two countries signed a bilateral air agreement whereby the national carrier of Jordan, Royal Jordanian operated direct flights from Amman to New Delhi and Calcutta. In November 1996, direct Royal Jordanian flights were also introduced to Mumbai, which have given a boost to the flow of tourists between the two countries.



**Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co. Ltd.**

**— A success story**

INDO-JORDAN Chemicals Co. Ltd. (IJC), the $170 million project at Eshidiya in Jordan is the biggest joint venture, outside India, promoted by an Indian company.

M/s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC), the Indian fertiliser giant was looking for a steady source of Phosphoric Acid supply for its fertiliser plant at Tuticorin, South India, while M/s. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd., the largest industry in Jordan was looking forward to secure a market for its enhanced production from its Eshidiya Mines. Thus a raw material producer and a finished product consumer came together to forge a joint venture.

Based on the merits and content of the project, M/s. TAIC, a Pan-Arab Financial Institution joined hands subsequently.

The location of the project at Jordan has many advantages foremost among them being the physical and contractual integration of the IJC plant with the Phosphate mines which makes it one of the lowest cost producers in the industry. Also logistics favour IJC in that it is the closest supplier of Phosphoric Acid to India and therefore the freight costs are way below those of competitors.

The implementation of the joint venture project, designed to produce 220,000 MT/annum (as P2O5) of Phosphoric Acid, was by M/s. KREBS of France while the loan component of the project finance was made available by premier financial institutions headed by the International Finance Corporation, Wa-shington.

The plant commenced production on 30.4.1997 and soon after the first shipment of Acid was despatched to the Port of Tuticorin, India, from Aqaba.

The plant facilities were dedicated to the nation by HRH Crown Prince Al Hassan on 21.7.1997. In his speech on the occasion, the Crown Prince commended the environment friendly plant and also the impeccable work carried out by the company which has resulted in the plant being built within the time and cost estimates.

The plant in full production shall bring in revenue to the tune of $80 million per annum, besides providing a variety of opportunities for various industrial and service sectors in Jordan.

With the successful implementation of this project, IJC now looks forward to the future. While one option is doubling the existing capacity the other option is to go for down stream products such as Di-Calcium Phosphate, food grade Phosphoric Acid, Aluminium Fluoride etc. Market studies for these are on at the moment.

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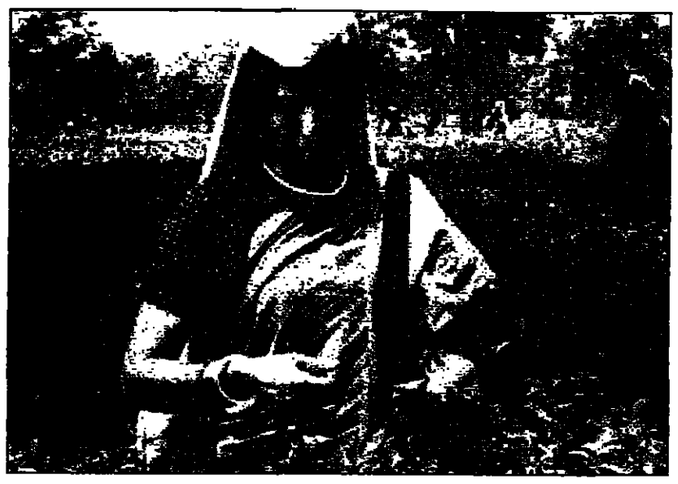
on the occasion of the

50th Anniversary of Independence

# Indian tea

## 'THE CUP THAT CHEERS BUT NOT INEBRIATES'

By Himangshu Sekhar Das



TEA IS the most widely used beverage in the world today. Tea drinking has been prevalent in China for almost 5,000 years. Chinese legend puts the origin of tea drinking at around 2737 BC — when a mythical emperor was supposed to have accidentally discovered tea. Another legend ascribes the creation of the tea plant to Daruma or Bodhidharma — the founder of Zen Buddhism. Saint Daruma one day fell asleep while mediating. When he woke up he was very angry with himself. He cut off his eye lids and threw them away to punish himself. A strange plant came up where his eye lids fell. Its leaves were found to give a refreshing brew that could banish sleep. This was the tea plant.

The world's first tea company — The Assam Company, was formed in 1839 in India. Three distinct varieties of teas are grown in India — Assam in North East, Darjeeling at the foothills of the Himalayas and the Nilgiri Mountains in South India. Each of these three varieties has its own distinctive characteristics. Darjeeling tea is the rarest and the costliest tea in the world. That is why it is known as the "Champagne of teas." Assam tea is famous for its strength and bright liquor. Second flush Assam tea is considered to be one of the best variety of teas in the world. In South India, tea grown on the slopes of Nilgiri is famous for its pleasant fragrance and brisk liquor. It is a coincidence that all the tea growing areas in the country are also areas of breathtaking scenic beauty.

A typical tea bush in a garden is about 1 metre in height. It is so because the tea bushes are pruned from time to time for the sake of getting better crop and also for the sake of convenience in tea plucking. Left to itself a tea plant can grow up to a height of 25 to 30 ft. Depending on the process of manufacturing, tea can be green or black in colour. Green tea does not constitute more than 1 per cent of the total production in India. The remaining 99 per cent is black tea. Almost 88 per cent of India's black tea production is CTC and the rest 12 per cent is orthodox. Orthodox is the traditional method of manufacturing. CTC stands for crush, tear and curl. The CTC machine was invented in India in 1931. While Assam and Nilgiri can have both orthodox and CTC varieties, only orthodox tea is manufactured from Darjeeling tea to retain its special muscatel flavour. Tea is one of those rare beverages whose manufacture does not require any artificial additives.

Tea is prepared differently in different parts of the world. In the Arab World, tea is generally taken without milk but sugar is added which is known as Chai Suleimani. Sometimes mint is also added for flavour. In India most people use milk and sugar with tea. Similarly, every part of the world has its own way and tradition of preparing tea. The important thing to remember is that the larger the size of the tea leaves, the longer it takes to brew. A teaspoon of orthodox tea should be used for every cup of tea required. The normal dictum is that 1 spoon for every cup and 1 for the pot. So if 5 cups of tea are required put 6 teaspoonful of tea in the pot. In case of CTC tea the quantity should be reduced by about half. The water used for preparing tea must have low iron or chemical content and must not be chlorinated. Cleanly collected rain water gives outstanding result. Best tea is made with water which has come to vigorous boil. The ideal period of infusion is between 3 to 5 minutes. Tea is best brewed in tea pots made of porcelain, earthenware, silver or stainless steel. Tea cosies to keep the pot warm should best be avoided. They help to continue the extraction process in the pot leading to qualitative deterioration just as it is not advisable to re-warm tea which has gone cold.

These days new variants of tea have hit the market. Different types of flavours are also being added to tea. So today we have teas flavoured with lemon, strawberry, chocolate, papaya, forest-flowers, etc. Another variety is herbal tea. Because of increasing health consciousness among the people, herbs with various medicinal properties are added to tea. Growing popularity of herbal tea in recent times is phenomenal.

At present India exports about 20 per cent of its production. In 1996 India exported 154 million kilogrammes to all the major tea consuming countries of the world. Because of its quality and strength Indian tea is considered indispensable by the blenders of most of the leading international brands. Pure Indian tea, of course, continues to be the ultimate choice of the most discerning connoisseurs throughout the world.

Our Distinguished Triad from the tea gardens of Darjeeling, Assam and Nilgiri

This logo signifies 100% Darjeeling tea famous for muscatel flavour

This logo signifies 100% Assam tea famous for bright full-bodied liquor

This logo signifies 100% Nilgiri tea famous for brisk liquor and fragrance

India Tea - The Cup that Cheers.



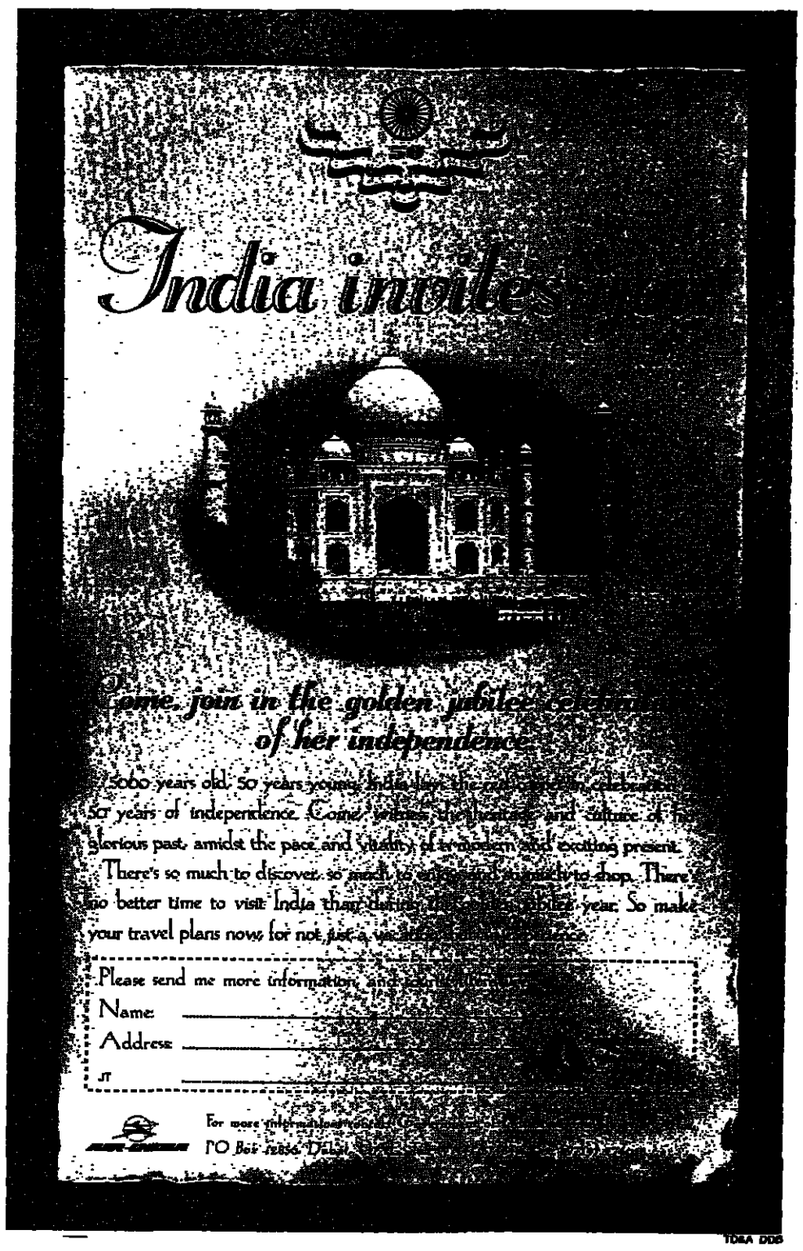
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the Indian Government, all the members of the Embassy of India in Jordan and all our Indian brothers, on this auspicious occasion.

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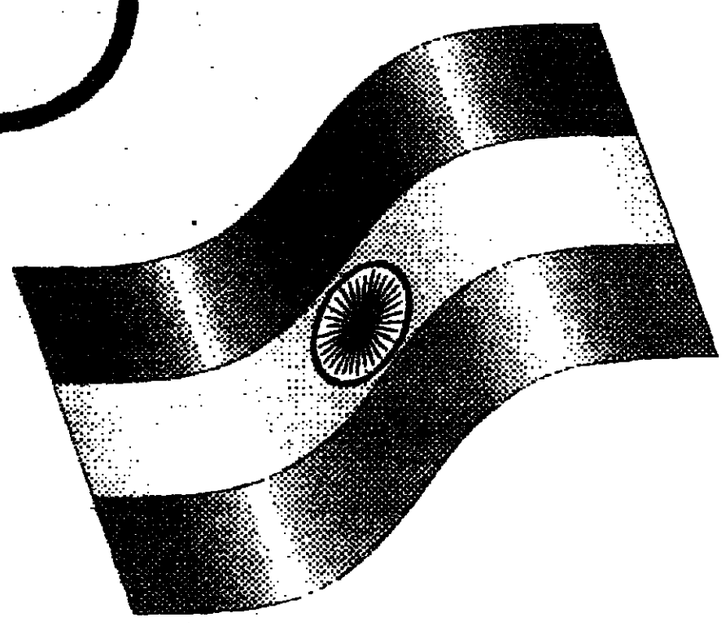
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AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP
AND HOPES OF CONTINUED
PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

# Dance and the body language



By M.S.N. Menon

TO INDIA, dance is sublime. At its highest form, it is said to be attuned to the cosmic rhythm. The artist enjoys bliss. The great sufi mystic poet Rumi says dancing is the "nearest way to God."

Dance is a co-ordinated movement of the whole body and mind. Abhinaya Darpana explains that dancer must sustain the song in the throat, depict meaning by hands, the mood (bhava) through eyes and keep time with the feet. Again, where the hands go, there the eyes must follow; where the eyes go, there the mind; where the mind goes, there the feelings; where the feelings go, there the mood. Gesture is said to be the soul of Indian dance. And, let us not forget, gestures add grace and beauty to the dance.

How do words find their equivalent mudras (postures)? To give a few of such natural expressions: Eyeball going round expresses wrath; lingering glance expresses love; raising eyebrow, doubt; widening of nostrils expresses anger; dropping cheeks, sadness; drooping lip, envy and so on. The body can express itself in so many ways. Hands become the chief vehicle of expression. They translate words into signs. Each school of dance (and there are six major schools — Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Manipuri Kuchipudi, Odissi and Kathak) has used the basic gestures. And each gesture can mean many things — as many as 85 in the case of the pathaka (flag) gesture.

No other dance form has given so much thought to the body language as the Indian dance. Every gesture is thought out in great detail. From very early times, the "language of the hands" (akshara-mushtika) became an important study. And some of the gestures became universal. For example, the gesture of "protection" (abhaya mudra). Similarly, the folded hands (anjali), with which every Indian greets another Indian, reminds them of the divinity of man. By the way, you raise your folded hands above head to greet Gods, hold them before your face to greet your guru (teacher) and against the chest to greet a brahmin or a respected person.

With that I say with folded hands "pranam" — almost a universal gesture.







# The Himalayan Adventure







**UNKNOWN TO many people, India is an excellent destination for adventure. Its vast geographical diversity and the pristine nature of its facilities cater to all tastes, however, varied. The daunting Himalayan range and the surrounding valleys offer a vast array of opportunities to the lover of adventure sports. The sheer thrill of hurtling down ski slopes or trekking and pedalling along mountain slopes, rafting along roaring waters of snow-fed rivers, hang gliding over deep mountain gorges and climbing serrated glaciers or mountain summits are to be experienced to be believed.**

**Trekking and camping in deep valleys, covered with rich and luxuriant undergrowth, filled with a vast variety of flora and fauna, reinvigorates one with the freshness of mountain air. For discovering the wonderful world of the Himalayas, one neither requires any specialised equipment nor any specialised training. All one needs is reasonable physical fitness and an outgoing, adventure loving temperament.**

**Come winter, and it is time for winter sports, with the mountains transformed into a multitude of snow ski slopes of a variety of gradients. India, in fact, provides the cheapest ski holiday anywhere in the world.**

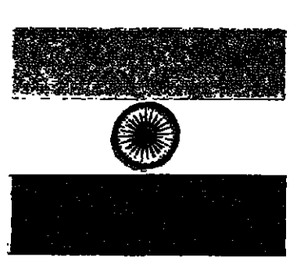
**The Himalayan snow-fed rivers offer tremendous opportunities for the fast growing and challenging sport of river rafting. Rafts negotiating the rapids and the rafters with their colourful jackets and helmets is an adventure-inspiring sight. Nine to twelve rafters can sit in a raft which is a long, circular-shaped inflatable rubber dinghy.**

**Hang gliding is a relatively new adventure sport in the Himalayan region. The romance of flying in the mountain terrain, surveying the panorama of snow-capped peaks and the green valleys is termed by many as the "ultimate fantasy!"**















**ON THE HISTORIC 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE**

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

OF

IJC

**INDO-JORDAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LTD.**

EXTEND THEIR WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.

The inauguration of IJC's mammoth Phosphoric Acid Complex recently by HRH Crown Prince Al Hassan is eloquent testimony of the growing trade and cultural ties which have remained traditionally deep-rooted between the two great nations of Jordan and India.

**SPIC** of India and **JPMC** of Jordan, partners in progress, have together performed a record breaking feat through IJC, by bringing on stream its prestigious USD 170 million joint venture project within the time schedule and cost estimate.



50TH ANNIVER

By M.K. Dhar

IMAGINATIVE and ...ic foreign policy being ...ecuted by the Prime ...ter and External Affairs ...ter, Mr. I.K. Gujral, ...s broken fresh ground ...ations with India's ...ighbours, has started pay...ffdividends. His new ...ncept of accepting a ...edisymmetry without ...ect on reciprocity, has ...ught wholesome praise. ...ernationally he has given ...gujral policy is widely ...knowledged as a very sig... ...contribution to ...ering the strategic envi... ...ment in Asia and achieve... ...objectives of globalisa... ...The 'Gujral Doctrine' ...s accolades not only ...India's neighbours but ...Washington, London ...Moscow. It is now ...knowledged that Mr. ...ujral has given the foreign ...icy a new vision and a ...ed purpose that is both ...ique and in tune with ...prevailing international ...ene.

...e 'Gujral Doctrine', as it ...ems to be known, is an ...tcome of the Govern... ...neighbourhood poli... ...ould was articulated by ...Gujral in a speech he ...ered at London's Royal ...titute of International ...airs on August 1996. It ...es, first of all, that ...neighbours such as ...Bangladesh, Bhutan, ...anka and Maldives, ...does not ask for reci... ...but gives all it can on ...faith and trust. Second, ...South Asian country shall ...t its territory to be used ...ainst the interests of ano... ...country in the region. ...one will interfere in ...internal affairs of another. ...all South Asian countries must respect each ...er's territorial integrity ...sovereignty. Last but not ...st, all South Asian ...ntries should settle all ...utes through peace... ...bilateral negotiations. ...Strict observance of ...the principles will ...help South Asian regional ...operation and foster ...ndships on which the ...ce pronouncement of ...e principles became a rec... ...because the five Pan... ...principles of ...coexistence" co-authored by ...Jawaharlal Nehru, the archi... ...of India's post-independ... ...foreign policy, were ...observed only in the ...ore by most countries, ...particularly those possessing ...colonies and colo... ...and imperialist back... ...ds. The Panchsheel

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# The Gujral Doctrine

## *New thrust to India's foreign policy*

**By M.K. Dhar**

THE IMAGINATIVE and realistic foreign policy being deftly executed by the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, who has broken fresh ground in relations with India's neighbours, has started paying dividends. His new approach of accepting a degree of asymmetry, without insisting on reciprocity, has won India wholesome praise. The orientation he has given to foreign policy is widely acknowledged as a very significant contribution to improving the strategic environment in Asia and achieving the objective of globalisation. The "Gujral Doctrine" has won accolades not only from India's neighbours, but also in Washington, London and Moscow. It is now acknowledged that Mr. Gujral has given the foreign policy a new vision and a sense of purpose that is both pragmatic and in tune with the prevailing international situation.

The "Gujral Doctrine," as it has come to be known, is an extension of the Government's "neighbourhood policy" which was articulated by Mr. Gujral in a speech he delivered at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs in August 1996. It envisages, first of all, that with neighbours, such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, India does not ask for reciprocity but gives all it can in good faith and trust. Second, no South Asian country shall allow its territory to be used against the interests of another country in the region. Third, none will interfere in the internal affairs of another. Fourth, all South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Last, but not the least, all South Asian countries should settle all their disputes through peaceful bilateral negotiations. Scrupulous observance of these five principles will recast South Asia's regional relationships on sound lines.

The pronouncement of these principles became necessary because the five Bandung principles or "Panchsheel" co-authored by Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of India's post-independence foreign policy, were being observed only in the breach by most countries, particularly those possessing atomic stockpiles and colonial and imperialist backgrounds. The Panchsheel guaranteed (a) mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, (b) mutual non-aggression (c) mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, (d) equality and mutual benefit and (e) peaceful coexistence, as has also been propounded in the five principles of the Gujral Doctrine. It made a powerful appeal to Indian nationalism and was felt to be not only the guide to India's relations with its neighbours, but also beacon for all nations.

As a matter of political necessity, every worthwhile foreign policy focuses first on neighbouring countries, as Mr. Gujral explained to an interviewer. India perceives



**Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral**

these regions as concentric circles and in the inner circles, the core is the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). India is also a full dialogue partner of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). India has made a new entry into Central Asia via Iran and Turkmenistan. The Indian initiative in Mauritius culminated in the formation of the larger Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC). In this manner the area of foreign policy is being expanded. While treating neighbours as a special case, relations are also being developed with countries, such as the United States, Russia and China.

India's approach towards Pakistan, its important neighbour, with whom it has had disturbed relations ever since Independence, is conceived separately by Mr. Gujral. Besides Confidence Building Measures which India is prepared to undertake, Mr. Gujral refers to New Delhi's efforts to "preserve a positive atmosphere by avoiding polemics and ignoring occasional hostile rhetoric from across the border." While a dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretaries has been initiated at India's instance, steps are being taken unilaterally to improve relations with Islamabad at the people-to-people level, if politicians take time to change their mindset and overcome past prejudices. Liberalisation of the visa regime in relations to several categories of Pakistani nationals, including a year's multiple-entry visa for businessmen, is another unilateral step which India has taken to normalise relations with Pakistan and creating a more congenial and peaceful environment in the subcontinent.

Analysts argue that certain factors have helped India build a consensus between the foreign policy planners and the politicians. With the South Asian countries needing greater regio-nal cooperation to achieve economic goals, especially through greater openness through trade, India has become more conscious of its role to facilitate progress towards regional market. India may not be able to play a global role as long as it is mired in intractable regional conflicts.

What is required is a patient and sophisticated policy of engaging the neighbours, and of removing the obstacles to cooperation and gaining trust. This cannot be based on strict reciprocity. Another aspect is the steady increase in the profile of the United States and China in the region. India's irritants with its neighbours had made it easy for external powers to checkmate it within the subcontinent. Changing this "negative balance of power dynamics" called for the development of common interests with each of the smaller neighbours.

While the Pakistan leadership may find it difficult to respond to the "Gujral Doctrine," given their background and hostility to India as the major electoral plank, enlightened opinion within that country acknowledges that India has taken some very swift strides on the diplomatic front and "we could wake up one day to find that we are out in the cold without a single friend and ally." They acknowledge that the Indian Government has normalised relations with China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Iran, once regarded as Pakistan's "natural allies." As a leading Pakistani newspaper editorialised on Pakistan's growing isolation: "We have only ourselves to blame for our present predicament... all governments have failed to secure a place for Pakistan on the map of the world. In fact, we seem, to have slipped off the edges and are now being viewed as some sort of a renegade pariah nation. At the risk of national interests, leaders have openly demanded intervention from foreign governments in our domestic politics. Their immature one-upmanship has led us to this sorry pass." No observer can better describe the consequences of the anti-India foreign policy pursued by Pakistan, at the behest of outsiders, with whom it was tied up in military pacts as well, and the futility of pursuing a course which is not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia.

Mr. Gujral's foreign policy has also won appreciation in the United States. Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Doup Bereuter, has appreciated the concrete steps taken by the Government towards its neighbours, including Pakistan. "I recognise the dynamic changes that are taking place in India which, I think, reflect a new openness that has developed in India under the current administration." He admits to a bipartisan recognition on Capitol Hill of the potential of a relationship with India in all respects. "There is no impediment as far as the American public is concerned in enhancing our relations for which a good basis now exists."

With zeal, Mr. Gujral continues to mend fences with near and far neighbours. Islamabad has virtually been stripped off its swagger by the doctrine. What has caused the greatest concern to Pakistan is the steady improvement in Sino-India relations, as highlighted by the recent agreement on military confidence building measures signed during President Jiang Zemin's important New Delhi visit. When in Islamabad, President Jiang stunned his hosts by tacitly endorsing the Indian stand that third parties have no role in bilateral disputes between India and Pakistan, which must be resolved peacefully and by means of dialogue.

Relations with Bangla-desh recorded dramatic improvement with the signing of the historic Ganga water treaty assuring Dhaka of adequate flows over a 25-year period. India will also give incentives to improve trade between the two countries by lowering tariffs and other specific methods. Taking note of India's concerns Bangla-desh and Chakma refugee leaders signed a historic agreement on March 9, 1997, for the repatriation and rehabilitation of nearly 50,000 Chakmas living in camps in Tripura. Agreeing with Dhaka that the Indo-Bangladesh Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rehman had outlived its usefulness, India allowed it to lapse. They have thus charted a new beginning in bilateral relations, breaking free of the mistakes of history and without being prisoners of the past, since new governments took over in both countries last year.



**Prime Minister Gujral with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif**

With regard to Sri Lanka, New Delhi has adopted a non-interventionist policy and broken fresh ground by insisting that the ethnic Tamil problem must be sorted out by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka alone. Minor issues relating to fishing around Kachchativu island and the problems faced by Indian fishermen from the Sri Lanka navy are being sorted out. The Sri Lankan Defence Secretary was recently in New Delhi and Madras and a process of mutual consultation has been established to avoid harassment of fishermen. As Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadingamar put it during Mr. Gujral's Colombo visit, "the process of constant dialogue is the sine qua non of good neighbourliness. I am confident that never again will our relations with India become dark and opaque. Never again."

The signing of the treaty on the harnessing the Mahakali river water with Nepal was also a landmark and the new Government headed by Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand has endorsed it and promised to pursue the most friendly relations with India. Apart from liberalising trade and promoting investment, India has also agreed to provide access to Nepal through Bangladesh to its ports. This will boost sub-regional cooperation and give a fillip to Nepal's economy.

Relations with Bhutan have been traditionally close and friendly. Having already agreed on several hydro-electric projects, the two countries have initiated studies on the feasibility of harnessing the water of the Sankosh river. India has also made very substantial contribution to Bhutan's annual plan, which will help the remote Himalayan kingdom to industrialise and harness its natural resources.

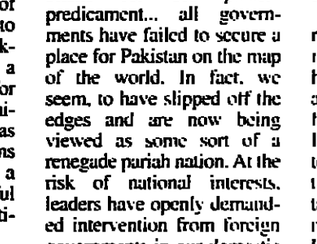
In furtherance of the policy of good neighbourliness, India is also thinking in terms of sub-regional cooperation within SAARC. The idea is to tackle the problems of poverty and under-development in the entire region comprising Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and eastern and northeastern India. If coordinated efforts are made to develop this region through larger volume of trade and cooperation in setting up industries and developing infrastructure, a beginning will be made to fight poverty which in turn will help stop migration of people.

The dividends of the "Gujral Doctrine" will continue to flow in the months and years ahead. India has made it clear that it is willing to go more than half way to improve relations with its neighbours and to better the security environment in the South Asian region and promote economic development. Here is a growing recognition in the region of the strength and acceptability of the new thrust of India's foreign policy which will permit New Delhi to play a more significant role globally.

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# IMF: Investments moved out of Asia, L. America to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — International investment firms have transfered capital from Asian and Latin American countries into Egypt's emerging market, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official said in remarks published Tuesday.

"Lately we were in touch with one of the biggest investment firms in New York. This firm, and others like it, has withdrawn some of its investment from East Asia, South Africa and Latin America markets and transferred some to Egypt," said Arvind Subramanian.

"When we asked them why they chose Egypt, they said it was because of 'quality to flight'," Mr. Subramanian told the government daily Al Ahram before ending his two-year tenure as IMF representative in Cairo.

"Egypt is considered by foreign investors as a more secure place than East Asia or Latin American countries. This was unthought of in the past but it reflects the real changes that have taken place in the Egyptian economy," he indicated.

But Mr. Subramanian warned that this "positive reaction of the international money market" could backfire if Egypt did not pursue its privatisation programme and ensured that its citizens reaped the fruit of liberalisation.

"There are challenges to be met and key among them is an increase of the growth rate from (five per cent currently) to seven-eight per cent on solid bases and to make sure that this growth is evenly distributed to everyone," he said.

The Egyptian government must also help "lift the standard of living, bring down the levels of poverty and inflation" and improve the quality of health and education for everyone.

"The government must pursue its efforts, reinforce its internal economic institutions and establish social security," Mr. Subramanian added.

Egypt launched a privatisation programme at the end of 1991 which did not really take off until 1996.

Business Sector Minister Atef Ebeid said in June that the government hoped on finishing the privatisation programme by the year 2000 with the sale of 314 public firms.

"The financial situation in Egypt is strong and stable and it can take any shock or pressure on the economy. There is no threat facing Egypt in the short or medium term," Mr. Subramanian said.

Meanwhile, Egypt has approved the stock market flotation of 11 state companies as part of the government drive to privatise 314 firms by the turn of the century, a senior official said Wednesday.

The decision was taken Tuesday by the Higher Committee for Privatisation at a meeting attended by Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzuri, said Mokhtar Khattab, the spokesman for Mr. Ebeid.

"Our portfolio contains 247 other public enterprise firms which are still to be privatised out of a total of 314 firms," Mr. Khattab said.

"We hope to complete this by the year 2000," he said.

According to Mr. Khattab, the government will be selling stakes in companies involved in industries including spinning and weaving, textiles, cement, electric cables, construction and technology.

Egypt launched a privatisation programme at the end of 1991 but it did not really take off until 1996.

A Central Bank report this week said foreign reserves amounted to $20 billion at the end of May, up from $19 billion in April.

Egyptian government economist Hani Dimian, quoted by the English language Egyptian Gazette, said the figure represented the "highest foreign reserves ever" and was equivalent to the country's total debt service requirements for 13 years.

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The Business of Information

**Major Currencies & Cross Rates** Prices as at ... 13/08/97 18:45

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 1.8670 | 0.5334 | 1.5279 | 116.34 | 1.3930 | 1821.91 | 2.1025 | 6.2912 |
| DE Mark | 0.5356 | - | 0.3389 | 0.8182 | 62.30 | 0.7458 | 975.43 | 1.1262 | 3.3696 |
| GB Sterling | 1.5789 | 2.9480 | - | 2.4083 | 183.26 | 2.1994 | 2874.97 | 3.3177 | 9.9275 |
| CH Franc | 0.6545 | 122.15 | 0.4145 | - | 76.12 | 0.9120 | 1192.04 | 137.48 | 4.1162 |
| JP Yen | 0.0086 | 1.6033 | 0.5437 | 1.3109 | - | 1.1963 | 15.65 | 180.55 | 5.4025 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7179 | 1.3393 | 0.4547 | 1.0967 | 1.20 | - | 1306.90 | 1.5087 | 4.5125 |
| IT Lira | 0.0005 | 1.0243 | 0.3474 | 0.0838 | 1567.64 | 0.7643 | - | 11.54 | 3.4516 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4756 | 88.75 | 0.3010 | 72.60 | 55.31 | 0.6623 | 866.13 | - | 2.9908 |
| FR Franc | 0.1590 | 0.2966 | 0.1006 | 24.2540 | 18.48 | 0.2213 | 33.41 | 33.4100 | - |

**Middle Eastern Currencies**

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | LBP | EGP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 0.7080 | 3.7505 | 0.3770 | 3.6395 | 0.3053 | 3.6726 | 1539.00 | 3.3920 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4124 | - | 5.2973 | 0.5325 | 5.1410 | 0.4312 | 5.1873 | 2173.73 | 4.7910 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1888 | - | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0814 | 0.98 | 410.35 | 0.9044 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8780 | 9.9483 | - | 9.65 | 0.8098 | 9.74 | 4082.23 | 8.9973 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0304 | 1.0304 | - | 0.0839 | 1.01 | 422.83 | 0.9319 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2755 | 2.3190 | 12.2845 | 1.2349 | 11.92 | - | 12.03 | 5040.94 | 0.9319 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0212 | 0.1027 | 0.9911 | 0.0831 | - | 419.05 | 0.9236 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4600 | 2.4370 | 0.2450 | 2.3650 | 0.1984 | 2.3864 | - | 2.2040 |
| Egyptian | 0.2948 | 0.2087 | 1.1057 | 0.1111 | 1.0731 | 0.0900 | 1.0827 | 453.71 | - |

**Energy**

| Oils | Last | Previous |
|---|---|---|
| Brent | 18.95 | 18.59 |
| W. Texa | 19.95 | 19.70 |
| Bonny | 18.95 | 18.59 |
| Dubai | 17.30 | 17.36 |
| UL Gas | 210.00 | 210.00 |

**Mid-East Currencies**

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4981 | 0.16887 | 0.40728 | 31.0492 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.50862 | 0.17245 | 0.41592 | 31.7078 |
| KW Dinar | 3.2755 | 6.11995 | 2.07469 | 5.0025 | 381.388 |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 4.9534 | 1.68011 | 4.05186 | 308.928 |
| CY Pound | 1.8179 | 3.394 | 1.151 | 2.775 | 211.604 |

**Metal Prices**

| Metal | Bid | Offer |
|---|---|---|
| Gold (oz's) | 325.9 | 328.4 |
| Silver (oz's) | 4.41 | 4.43 |
| Platinum (oz's) | 434 | 437 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1721 | 1724 |
| CU (3 Months) | 2278 | 2283 |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1483 | 1486 |
| Lead (3 Months | 601 | 603 |
| NI (3 Months) | 6720 | 6740 |

**Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)**

| Period / C'ncy | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 9 Months | 1 Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD | 5.50 | 5.62 | 5.75 | 5.87 | 6.00 |
| GBP | 7.00 | 7.13 | 7.22 | 7.12 | 7.38 |
| JPY | 0.39 | 0.43 | 0.44 | 0.47 | 0.53 |
| DEM | 3.06 | 3.12 | 3.25 | 3.31 | 3.38 |
| FRF | 3.19 | 3.30 | 3.43 | 3.52 | 3.61 |
| CHF | 1.12 | 1.16 | 1.58 | 1.43 | 1.63 |
| ITL | 6.78 | 6.81 | 6.72 | 6.60 | 6.48 |

**Main Equity Indices**

| Bourse | Index | Value | Chng | % Chng | High | Low | Prev Cl |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NewYork | DOW JONES | 8048.41 | -13.7 | -0.17 | 8095.56 | 8043.08 | 8062.11 |
| Newyork | S&P 500 | 936.62 | -0.38 | -0.04 | 942.99 | 936.22 | 937. |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 5075.8 | 43.9 | 0.87 | 5078.2 | 5041.9 | 5031.9 |
| Tokyo | NIKKIE 225 | 19098.11 | 274.93 | 1.46 | 19257.2 | 18917.5 | 18824.2 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 2998.57 | 15.13 | 0.51 | 3012.97 | 2982.94 | 2983.44 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 4363.09 | 29.96 | 0.69 | 4372.29 | 4346.95 | 4333.13 |

**Energy**

| Commodity | Last | Delivery |
|---|---|---|
| Coffee (c/lbs) | 192 | Spot |
| Cocoa ($/ton) | 1523 | Spot |
| Sugar ($/ton) | 343.3 | Spot |
| Wheat ($/ton) | 146 | Spot |
| Soya (c/lbs) | 21.6 | Spot |
| Tea (stg/kg) | 165 | Spot |
| Barley ($/bsh) | 0 | Spot |
| Rice ($/ton) | 460 | Spot |

*** JOD Cross Rates**

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1235 | 1.1291 |
| DE Mark | 0.3794 | 0.3813 |
| CH Franc | 0.4635 | 0.4658 |
| FR Franc | 0.1126 | 0.1132 |
| JP Yen | 0.6095 | 0.6125 |
| NL Guilder | 0.3368 | 0.3385 |
| IT Lira | 0.3891 | 0.391 |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1997

*By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation*

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Carry through with a project today which you have started. Later this evening entertain one whose approval you wish to gain and thereby make him or her feel welcome. This person will help you in the days ahead.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Stop procrastinating and handle your domestic affairs more efficiently. Show more devotion to your mate today instead of trying to change things. This evening will be a good time to entertain good friends.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Others are waiting today for you to finish your end of the bargain, so get moving and don't disappoint them. A touch of humour at the office could yield good result, however you should not do anything silly.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) This is not a good time today for investing in anything unsteady, so wait until another time for any action. Take any delays in your stride, especially those involving your career activities. See your friends, however watch your tongue.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) If you see any friends today, you should not confide in them otherwise you could be disappointed. Wait a few days until the planets line up in your favour before pursuing any business activities. It will be worth it.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Ambitious plans for the days ahead will work out today, however make them yourself. Show devotion to your mate, even though you don't want to. Later this evening will be good for going to recreational activities with close friends.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is not a good time today to ask good friends for assistance unless you're very tactful. You should not do anything which could cause a tense situation at a social affairs and cause a great deal of difficulty.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get your duties completed today and be most precise and conscientious in handling them. Seek advice from important people with experience in business activities and listen very carefully to what is suggested.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today to take some time to figure out how to make a fresh start with career activities. You should not be a push over when it comes to investments, so study any information which is provided.

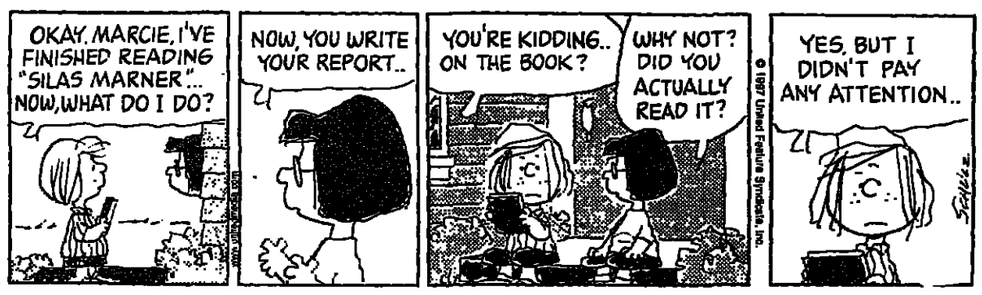
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Let this last day of labour week be good for making lasting arrangements. Be sure to keep any promises you have made towards fellow associates and close friends, thereby you can retain your good reputation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Situations arise today to remind you of neglected duties, get at them quickly and completed them for you to be successful. Show more concern about a fellow associate and improve the mood there.

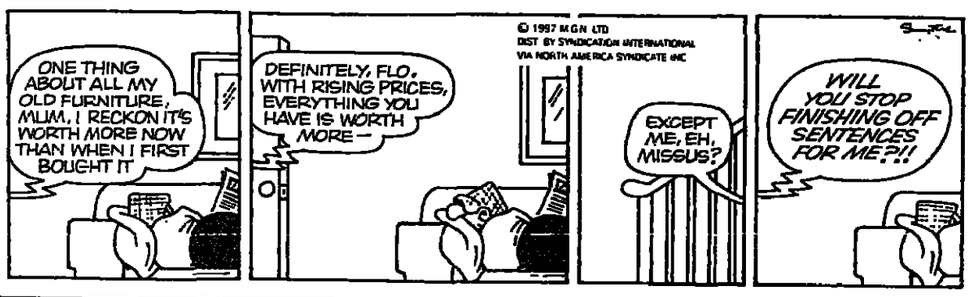
**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Study your environment today and see how best to improve it for the better. You should not disturb a fellow associate in any way, or resentment could build up and cause a great deal of difficulty.

**Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz**

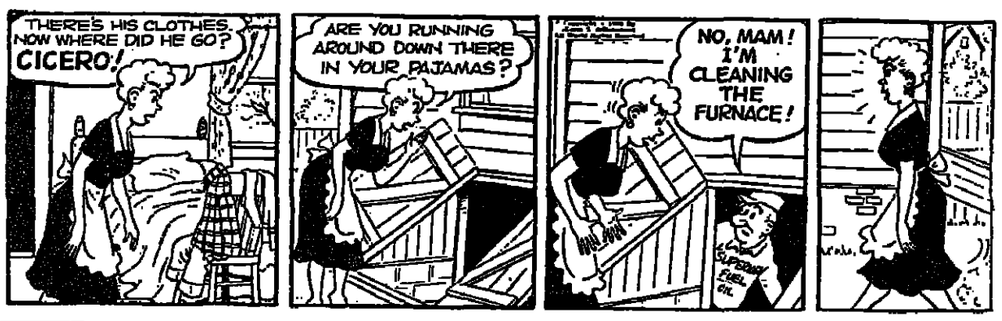
## Peanuts



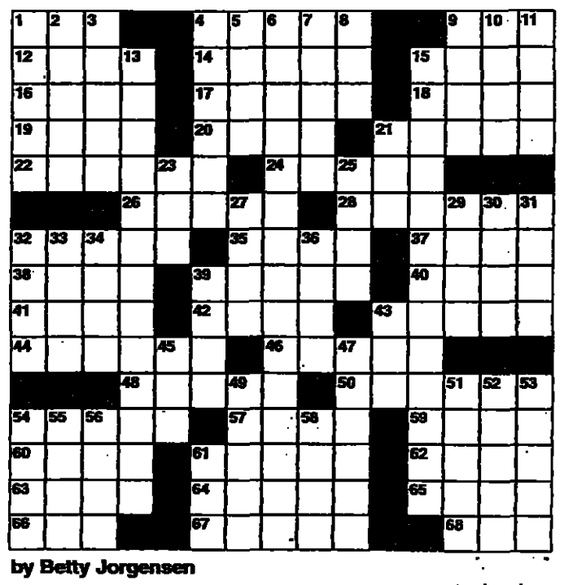

## Andy Capp




## Mutt'n'Jeff




## THE Daily Crossword



by Betty Jorgensen

**ACROSS**
1 Stripling
4 Mountain road curves
9 Vehicle
12 Citrus drinks
14 Fernando or Lorenzo
15 Cradle occupant
16 Earth
17 "That's —" (Dean Martin song)
18 Dill, old style
19 Gaelic
20 Lap dog, briefly
21 Cinema pathway
22 Pays the bills
24 Decree
26 The great Garbo
28 Merchant
32 Restless
35 Before: pref.
37 Put the finger on
38 Spell of illness
39 Pranks
40 Nerd
41 Dope
42 "Sesame Street" name
43 Russian rulers: var.
44 Disagree
46 Tagging along
48 Respect
50 Brutish one
54 Female
57 "My Name is —" (Saroyan)
59 Forum wear
60 Level
61 In accord
62 Prepare for exams
63 Sow
64 Sea birds
65 Trust
66 Explosive letters
67 Beginning
68 Actor Beatty

**DOWN**
1 Surgical beam
2 Worship
3 Religious philosophy
4 Go by
5 Ditto
6 Deception, of a kind
7 Like an otary
8 Comp. pt.
9 Containers
10 Explorer Tasman
11 Sequence of bits
13 Deception, of a kind
15 Deception, of a kind
21 Top player
23 Sit in judgment
25 Mid-month dates
27 Caudal appendage
29 Zhivago's love
30 OPEC bigwig
31 Agts.
32 Footnote word
33 Songstress Tennille
34 Place for links
36 Animated film, briefly
39 Actress Laura
43 Heavy weight
45 Long, long time
47 Most docile
49 Like some cereals
51 Hardly a genius
52 Open-mouthed
53 Made gimpy
54 Memorable Mae
55 Baker's need
56 Track event
58 Ms. Meara
61 From — Z

**Puzzle solved:**

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | N | T | ■ | S | H | I | E | D | ■ | T | E | A | M |
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| Y | E | N | ■ | H | E | A | R | ■ | S | P | R | I | N | T |
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| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | B | O | B | ■ | P | U | N | T | E | R | S |
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## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1997

*By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation*

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Discuss with a clever loved one how best today to add to your present security. Labour at home for better efficiency thereby you can keep busy. Later this evening will be good for meeting with a fellow associate and devise a plan of action for success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Trying a new angle today on important communications should yield excellent results. Keep any conversations with close friends light and make plans for going for recreational activities which will be enjoyable.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Keeping busy will keep you happy. A financial expert can give today good advice on how to add to your assets, so listen very carefully. Check the condition of your home, for possible difficulties to occur.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Labour on relations with a reticent friend, thereby your personal goals complement your friendships. You should work on listening to others, as they could have useful information for becoming quite successful.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is an excellent time today for financial growth, so seek the advice of someone who knows his or her business. Look to one who is successful for tips. Relationships will prosper with your loved ones.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Someone from far away can show you how to get more out of life today, so pay attention to what is said. Put more effort into trying to gain some very vital wishes and proceed towards achieving them with some assistance.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Labour on a plan to gain more prosperity at this time. Make it a point to allow more funds for your mate, and make this person much more happy. Later this evening will be good to go out on the town with close friends.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Know what a practical minded fellow associate desires today, and use a different method of operation so that you come to a better understanding. This evening will be a good time to stay home with your loved ones and just relax.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Business affairs are coming up today, they can be of great assistance to your regular career activities.. Get the "okay" needed before you begin, thereby you won't get into a difficult situation with those in authority.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Quietly find out what your best friends want from you today, and try to please them. A little risk taken at this time could work out very nicely, if you keep to a plan of action which you have devised.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Study any repairs which need to be made to your home today and get cracking. Have influential people into your home later this evening for quick advancement with your career activities from advice of an expert.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your ideas are inspired, however you need assistance from friends today, don't hesitate to ask. Get the backing you need from your loved ones as well. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

**Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz**

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More

By Samir Gh
Jordan Times Staff

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SITOF
ORPYX
GHILOUG
LUBBEA

WHAT UP LIT

Now arra... form the ...ested l

Print answer here : A

Jumbles: ENEMY AWFUL U
Answer: What the tower gives ... THE LOWDOWN

# More companies issue mid-year financial results

By Samir Ghawi
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Since last month, public shareholding companies have been preparing their financial statements and reports as of June 30, 1997 and submitting them to the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as required by the law.

The Jordan Times Wednesday published a summary of the financial results of some companies and another batch of results are shown below:

**The Arab International Hotels Company**

Operational income increased from JD5.6 million at the end of June 1996 to JD5.8 million at the end of June 1997, but an in operational costs has cut earnings from JD2.11 million to JD2.06 million.

However, other unspecified earnings of about JD0.5 million (JD0.21 million in 1996) gave a lift to the total earnings and brought them up to JD2.54 million compared to JD2.32 million at mid-year 1996.

Sharp cuts resulting from depreciation and various expenses put the net profit at JD1.61 million as of June 30, 1997, slightly up from the JD1.59 million posted in 1996.

Current assets totalled JD9.9 million with costs accounting for JD7.9 million of this total compared to JD6.6 million in the previous year.

Fixed assets were valued at over JD17 million, which JD10 million were long-term investment and the rest in buildings furnitures etc...

Shareholders' equity rose by about JD1 million to JD21.9 million, but liabilities were higher at JD4.8 million, more than double the amount at mid-year 1996.

**The Jordan Himeh Mineral Company**

After the deducting the administrative, selling and general expenses as well as depreciation, the company was left with only JD21,045 of net profit after recording an operational gross profit of JD56,851 during the first half of 1997. The gross profit as of June 30, 1996 was JD74,346 which boiled down to a JD37,359 net profit.

The company's total assets at the end of the first half of this year were JD263,326, JD239,528 of which were fixed assets.

Current liabilities and shareholders equity stood at JD44,850 and JD266,912 noting that the company's capital is JD174,500.

**The Jordan Printing and Packaging Company**

The earnings from the printing press fell from JD748,647 at the end of June 1996 to JD293,419 at the end of this year's first half. After deducting industrial costs and administrative and general expenses, the company posted a JD42,021 loss (JD67,640 loss in 1996).

The company's total assets stood at JD1.2 million of which JD661,085 were the value of fixed assets. Current liabilities totalled JD315,859-and total shareholders' equity amounted to JD908,721.

**The Jordan Trade Facilities Company**

The company's financial results stayed at the same level during both periods of 1996 and 1997 as earnings totalled JD102,528 (JD98,056 in '96) and net profit stood at JD31,927 (JD24,240).

Receivables totalling about JD2.3 million and a JD1.4 million long-term investment in Al Liwan Hotel Company constituted most of the company's assets which totalled JD3.9 million.

Current liabilities and shareholders' equity were JD0.6 million and JD3.2 million respectively noting that the company's paid-up capital is JD4.2 million and that the accumulated losses amounted to JD1.45 million.

**The Universal Modern Industries Company**

Of the JD14.5 million total assets, around JD5.2 million were fixed assets at the end of June 1997. Most of the current assets, amounting to JD9.3 million, were inventories valued at JD4.4 million and receivables totalling JD3.4 million and around JD1.2 million in cash and cheques under collection.

Bank debt declined from JD6.04 million to JD4.17 million at the end of last June. This drop resulted in current liabilities going down from JD7.55 million to JD5.93 million.

Shareholders' equity totalled JD8.56 million, of which JD5 million was the company's capital and JD2 million were voluntary reserves.

Noting that the company deals with the civil and military consumer corporations as well as a main Iraqi importer, sales posted at the end of June 1997 amounted to JD15.75 million compared to JD10.29 million of sales at the first half of 1996.

The higher sales figure resulted in a JD344,485 net profit compared to only JD96,622 in 1996.

**The Jordan Poultry Processing and Marketing Company**

Sales were higher at JD4.4 million from last year's JD4.1 million and, consequently, gross profit rose from JD178,844 to JD208,304.

However, higher administrative and general expenses and lower "other income" curbed the net profit to JD45,195 after registering JD89,661 at the end of June 1996.

Total assets stood at JD5.6 million (JD5.2 million in 1996) but of this amount, JD3.34 million were fixed assets. JD1.5 million worth of inventory and production material accounted for most of the current assets which totalled JD2.28 million.

The company's current liabilities stood at JD0.6 million with shareholders' equity totalling JD4.8 million out of a JD5.1 million paid-up capital (JD6.0 million authorised capital). The accumulated losses at the end of June 1997 amounted to JD194,540 compared to JD279,416 at the end of June 1996.

## Daily Beat

### *Government floats prices of cigarettes from tomorrow*

** THE MINISTRY of Industry, Trade and Supply has decided to float the prices of cigarettes from Friday. The decision comes in line with the government's drive to float prices and allow the private sector to import foreign cigarettes in addition to setting new specifications for Jordanian and imported cigarettes that require lower levels of nicotine and tar.

The decision is expected to reflect positively on the consumer in light of stiff competition among Jordanian cigarette manufacturers on the one hand and between local and foreign-made cigarettes especially after the cabinet decision allowing the private sector to import foreign cigarettes.

Jordan's imports of foreign cigarettes amounted to about JD4.1 million last year with imports during the first quarter of this year reaching JD687,000. This amount is considered small especially compared to sales of local cigarette which posted a combined total of JD1809 million last year. The value of cigarettes smuggled into Jordan from neighbouring countries is estimated at JD30 million (Al Arab Al Yawm + Al Dustour).

### *Abu Jaber expects government to extend the period for insurance companies to raise capital or merge*

** ACCORDING TO Raouf Abu Jaber, president of the Jordanian Federation of Insurance Companies, the government is inclined to extend the period given to insurance firms to adjust their situation, in accordance with the new law on controlling insurance operations, for another year. The present period expires on Oct. 1 of this year. "It seems that the government has come to understand the situation of insurance companies and the difficult economic conditions they are in," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

The new amendments in the law require insurance companies to raise their capital to JD2 million. The companies were given two years to achieve this end and, as such, some firms were forced to merge while eight, out of 25 companies, have not yet regulated their situation.

The federation president said: "I do not expect any wave of mergers at present or in the near future because there is no incentives to encourage such mergers." Dr. Abu Jaber expressed his stupefaction at the moves of some investors to register new insurance companies. "It is a loss to invest in this sector," he said. "And the proof is the weak demand for insurance shares at the Amman Financial Market and the low prices of these shares."

The insurance sector employs 2,000 persons (Al Dustour).

**JUMBLE®** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

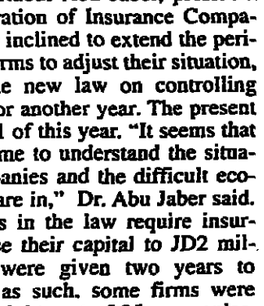
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SITOF

ORPYX

ENLOUG

LUBBEA




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Print answer here :* A

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ENEMY AWFUL UNSOLD KOWTOW
Answer: What the tower gives a pilot before landing – THE LOWDOWN

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 13/08/1997

| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 298.000 | 219.000 | ARAB BANK | 13.4 | 1.38 | 3 | 80 | 23270 | 293.00 | 290.50 | 2.50- |
| N 2.340 | 1.680 | JOR.NATIONAL BK. | E | 0.00 | 9 | 11550 | 23674 | 2.05 | 2.05 | - |
| 5.800 | 4.100 | CAIRO AMMAN BANK | 11.3 | 2.75 | 1 | 100 | 545 | 5.45 | 5.45 | - |
| 3.600 | 2.760 | BANK OF JORDAN | 6.4 | 0.00 | 4 | 409 | 1247 | 3.05 | 3.05 | - |
| 2.480 | 2.150 | INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK. | 8.7 | 7.23 | 23 | 8000 | 18796 | 2.36 | 2.34 | .02- |
| 5.200 | 4.500 | THE HOUSING BK. | 14.3 | 4.04 | 3 | 350 | 1680 | 4.80 | 4.80 | - |
| 4.180 | 2.440 | JOR.KUWAIT BANK | 10.8 | 0.00 | 4 | 1193 | 3609 | 3.02 | 3.03 | .01+ |
| 1.050 | .760 | JOR.GULF BANK | 4.7 | 8.86 | 1 | 1000 | 790 | .79 | .79 | - |
| 4.050 | 3.480 | JOR.ISLAMIC BANK | 15.7 | 3.11 | 13 | 10787 | 41637 | 3.88 | 3.86 | .02- |
| 1.760 | 1.110 | UNION BK.SAV.INV. | P | 0.00 | 3 | 650 | 844 | 1.28 | 1.29 | .01+ |
| 2.460 | 1.000 | BEIT.AL-MAL (BEITMA) | .7 | 14.15 | 12 | 5200 | 5512 | 1.06 | 1.06 | - |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 214.75 %CHG: -0.67 | | | 76 | 39319 | 121603 | | | |
| 2.470 | 2.150 | GENERAL ARAB INSUR. | 13.2 | 7.58 | 1 | 1500 | 3300 | 2.20 | 2.20 | - |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 113.54 %CHG: 0.00 | | | 1 | 1500 | 3300 | | | |
| 1.820 | 1.500 | JOR.ELECTRIC PWR. | 8.0 | 6.02 | 16 | 3595 | 5965 | 1.65 | 1.66 | .01+ |
| 1.540 | 1.320 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 9.2 | 7.47 | 4 | 1100 | 1694 | 1.47 | 1.54 | .07+ |
| 1.550 | .930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | g | 0.00 | 7 | 3600 | 4967 | 1.39 | 1.37 | .02- |
| 8.630 | 6.850 | ALKA'I | 12.3 | 7.30 | 3 | 300 | 2065 | 6.85 | 6.85 | - |
| 7.190 | 3.900 | AD-DUSTOUR | 24.8 | 4.21 | 1 | 100 | 594 | 6.25 | 5.94 | .31- |
| 1.890 | 1.150 | MID. EAST HOTELS | 19.4 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 318 | 1.32 | 1.27 | .05- |
| 3.720 | 2.890 | ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC. | 8.0 | 0.00 | 14 | 5350 | 16373 | 3.07 | 3.05 | .02- |
| 1.220 | .930 | ZARKA EDUCATION | g | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 490 | .99 | .98 | .01- |
| 2.230 | 1.630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.5 | 6.15 | 10 | 3050 | 5494 | 1.81 | 1.79 | .02- |
| 1.010 | .640 | UNION LAND DEV. | g | 0.00 | 1 | 1400 | 938 | .67 | .67 | - |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 109.94 %CHG: -0.33 | | | 58 | 19245 | 38897 | | | |
| 4.450 | 3.220 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 26.9 | 2.75 | 27 | 25037 | 100056 | 3.99 | 4.00 | .01+ |
| 10.250 | 9.040 | JOR. PETROL.REFINERY | 9.7 | 8.91 | 5 | 330 | 3298 | 10.01 | 9.98 | .03- |
| 4.160 | 3.040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 11.3 | 4.87 | 42 | 9521 | 39017 | 4.06 | 4.11 | .05+ |
| 1.800 | 1.310 | JOR.PIPES MANFCT. | 16.2 | 6.11 | 3 | 2900 | 3799 | 1.31 | 1.31 | - |
| 3.410 | 2.700 | JOR.PAPER CARDBD. | 15.8 | 0.00 | 2 | 366 | 1025 | 2.80 | 2.80 | - |
| 1.530 | 1.050 | RAFIA INDUSTRIES | g | 0.00 | 3 | 350 | 397 | 1.09 | 1.14 | .05+ |
| 5.650 | 4.300 | DAR ALDAWA DV.INV. | 13.1 | 4.67 | 6 | 53390 | 284043 | 5.30 | 5.35 | .05+ |
| 3.850 | 2.400 | ARAB ALUM.IND. | 5.6 | 10.37 | 3 | 400 | 961 | 2.41 | 2.41 | - |
| .960 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 9.7 | 0.00 | 8 | 11800 | 5428 | .46 | .46 | - |
| 1.310 | 1.000 | ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD. | 32.4 | 0.00 | 12 | 9850 | 10441 | 1.06 | 1.06 | - |
| .770 | .510 | NATIONAL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 2 | 2000 | 1020 | .51 | .51 | - |
| 1.270 | .550 | INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM. | g | 0.00 | 5 | 3200 | 1794 | .57 | .56 | .01- |
| .980 | .530 | JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 11 | 4750 | 3183 | .69 | .67 | .02- |
| 3.000 | 2.130 | NATL.CABLE WIRE.MFAC | 36.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 50 | 114 | 2.28 | 2.28 | - |
| .920 | .530 | JOR. SULFBO-CHEM | g | 0.00 | 17 | 12950 | 5271 | .63 | .63 | - |
| 1.670 | 1.120 | ARAB PHARM.CHEM. | 17.1 | 5.22 | 7 | 2050 | 2751 | 1.37 | 1.34 | .03- |
| 2.000 | 1.080 | UNIV. MODN.INDS. | P | .21 | 29 | 13800 | 17248 | 1.24 | 1.25 | .01+ |
| 1.510 | .990 | JOR.INDS.RESOURCES | 13.9 | 9.71 | 20 | 16090 | 16463 | 1.03 | 1.03 | - |
| 1.620 | 1.300 | NATL. CHLORINE | 14.8 | 4.46 | 15 | 4450 | 7004 | 1.59 | 1.57 | .02- |
| 1.070 | .810 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 15.8 | 0.00 | 51 | 29100 | 25088 | .84 | .86 | .02+ |
| 1.240 | .860 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 43.2 | 0.00 | 13 | 10200 | 9763 | .96 | .95 | .01- |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 123.40 %CHG: +0.09 | | | 284 | 212653 | 541393 | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | INDEX: 165.20 %CHG: -0.35 | | | 419 | 272717 | 705193 | | | |

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDENSDAY 13/08/1997

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| .630 | .350 | CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE | g | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 175 | .35 | .35 | - |
| .660 | .410 | JOR.TRADE FAC. | 11.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 210 | .41 | .42 | .01+ |
| N .950 | .540 | JOR.FIN.INV.CO. | P | 0.00 | 4 | 4000 | 2240 | .57 | .56 | .01- |
| .840 | .660 | UNION INV. 50% | g | 0.00 | 14 | 50900 | 10180 | .69 | .70 | .01+ |
| .620 | .370 | ARAB FIN.INVEST. | g | 0.00 | 22 | 37500 | 15375 | .41 | .41 | - |
| N .950 | .720 | AL-SHARQ INV.CO. | P | 0.00 | 8 | 50000 | 43000 | .87 | .86 | .01- |
| N .950 | .610 | AL-DAWLIYAH 75% | 65.3 | 0.00 | 5 | 38350 | 16491 | .68 | .68 | - |
| .730 | .510 | ARAB FOOD & MED. | g | 0.00 | 2 | 1000 | 520 | .53 | .52 | .01- |
| .570 | .380 | ARAB INTL.INV.TRD. | 46.1 | 0.00 | 5 | 1850 | 820 | .39 | .40 | .01+ |
| .750 | .400 | NATL.MULT.ENG.MANICO | g | 0.00 | 25 | 23550 | 11458 | .49 | .48 | .01- |
| .820 | .710 | JORDAN STEEL | 34.8 | 6.49 | 21 | 23650 | 18289 | .77 | .77 | - |
| .730 | .580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 75% | E | 0.00 | 3 | 4000 | 1560 | .65 | .64 | .01- |
| 1.200 | .860 | UNION TOBACCO 75% | g | 0.00 | 1 | 150 | 107 | .95 | .96 | .01+ |
| .670 | .550 | RAZI PHARM. 85% | E | 0.00 | 6 | 3946 | 1776 | .61 | .60 | .01- |
| .570 | .320 | INDS. ENG. | g | 0.00 | 2 | 500 | 170 | .33 | .34 | .01+ |
| .860 | .730 | INDS. CERAMIC | 19.1 | 0.00 | 11 | 17250 | 12608 | .74 | .73 | .01- |
| .820 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | E | 0.00 | 10 | 10385 | 6646 | .64 | .64 | - |
| N 1.000 | .730 | NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75% | P | 0.00 | 8 | 10800 | 5400 | .75 | .75 | - |
| .860 | .590 | MID.EAST COMPLEX | 7.9 | 15.63 | 1 | 500 | 320 | .64 | .64 | - |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | 150 | 279031 | 147142 | | | |

N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

## Banks, Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. sign $100m Eurobond agreement

AMMAN — The subscription agreement for a floating rate bond issue on behalf of Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) for the amount of $100 million was signed in Amman Wednesday.

The agreement was signed by the chairman and the general manager of JPMC, the representatives of HSBC Markets Ltd. Arab Bank PLC and representatives of the participating banks.

The tenor of the said issue is five years. It will be utilised to finance part of the cost of improving the Sihdiyah mine by increasing production capacity from 3.25 million tonnes per annum to 7.5 million tonnes per annum by the end of 1999.

The importance of such an issue stems from the fact that it is the first issue of its kind that has been arranged on behalf of a Jordanian company in the Eurodollar market and based on its own creditworthiness.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN**
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

Date: 14/8/1997
Loan No.: KfW/L
IFB No.: 67/97/GMD/L

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt for Wiederaufbau in Deutsche Marks towards the Sector Programme Water Supply II. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.

2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from bidders in the Federal Republic of Germany (eligible bidders) for the supply and erection of automated gas chromatograph/mass detector data system.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Tel. 680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, Fax. 679143.

4. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD150.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of the offered total and must be delivered to the office not later than 1500 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday, September 20, 1997.

6. Saturday, September 13, 1997, is the last day set for the purchasing of tender documents.

**Eng. Munther Khleifat**
**Secretary General**
**Water Authority**

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# Rumman Hill Climb attracts 47 competitors

By Roufan Nahhas
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — The Kingdom's most popular auto sports event, the Rumman Hill Climb, kicks off Friday with 47 participants from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon taking part.

Competitors in the two session event will be trying to break the record set by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989 in his Mercedes Benz 190 with a time of 1:57:28.

Local participants had to go through qualifiers in May to be eligible for the event which is sponsored by Pepsi and the Forte Grand Hotel.

First initiated by King Hussein in 1956, the Rumman Hill track is three kilometres long in one of the most scenic parts of the kingdom near Jarash.

The race was put on halt for several times until it was revived again by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah's in 1987.

The climb has attracted participants from several Arab countries including Lebanon's Adel Matni, Kuwait's Sheikh Hamad Al Thani and UAE's Sheikh Jaber Al Khalifeh.

Jordan's champion Ahmad Dawoud, Faris Bustami and Mohammad Dawoud are just a few names who will compete in the event with hopes of clocking new best time.

The best time by an Arab competitor was 1:56.58 by Lebanon's Jean Pierre Nasrallah while the best world time was by Stig Blumqvist with a time of 1:53.66.

Two Jordanian ladies will participate in this international event including Randa Nabulsi in a Triumph TR8 and Tala Shawa in a Ford Fiesta XR2i.

Organisers, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), said that the drivers are asked to equip their cars with safety measurements that range from having a steel cage and steel bars for protection.

Two of Jordan's top drivers, Marouf Abu Samra and Bashar Bustami who will not participate for personal reasons.

Trophies will be distributed to overall fastest time, single fastest time and fastest car in the group in a special ceremony at the RACJ headquarters.

# Wimbledon ticket prices rise as of 1998

LONDON (AFP) — It will cost even more to watch the action at Wimbledon next year — if you are lucky enough to be able to buy tickets.

The All England Club announced Wednesday that prices for each day of the championships, to run from June 22-July 5, will increase by one or two pounds.

Tickets for the men's singles final on the final Sunday have been increased from 54 pounds to 56 pounds, while the women's final tickets on the second Saturday have gone up from 49 pounds to 51 pounds.

Most Wimbledon tickets are sold through a public ballot, for which entries close on December 31 and a draw is made in January. A limited number of centre court and No. 1 court tickets are also sold each day of the championships, although none for the last four days for the centre court.

Prices will rise by a pound during the first week and two pounds during the second week — with the exception of the first Saturday, known as "people's Saturday", when additional seats will be available at a reduced price of 25 pounds. Most seats that day cost 33 pounds.

# Kanu ready for national duty

MILAN (AFP) — A year after winning the Olympic gold medal and nine months after a heart operation, Inter Milan's Nwankwo Kanu is set to play for Nigeria again in Sunday's game against Guinea.

Kanu responded on Tuesday to a call-up from the Nigerian Football Association, and told reporters he was delighted to have won back his place in the national side.

The striker has been given a three-month permit to play for Inter, pending further examinations.



Monica Seles, of the United States, returns a backhand to Sweden's Asa Carlsson during first round action at the Canadian Open in Toronto. Seles defeated Carlsson in straight sets 6-2 6-4 to advance (Reuters photo)

# SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Souness pleased with progress

TURIN (AFP) — Second Division Torino may have only one victory and four draws to show for their last five pre-season friendlies, but new coach Graeme Souness is a happy man. "I wanted the team to become more solid, more reliable and that's what I've got," said the former Anfield hero, whose job is to take the club back into the Serie A. "The strength and the pressing is there in midfield. Creating and scoring goals will come as a result."

## Lazio could find a job for Robson

ROME (AFP) — Lazio were due to face Benfica in a friendly on Tuesday night, with the outcome potentially decisive for the Portuguese club's embattled coach Manuel Jose. Speculation there is widespread that defeat for Benfica could see him out of a job — to be replaced by Barcelona's Bobby Robson. Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said he could offer Jose no help. "I've heard Bobby Robson's name being mentioned," he said. "I'm sorry, but we're going to be playing to win. This is an important match for us."

## Karembeu stuck with Sampdoria

GENOA (AFP) — French international midfielder Christian Karembeu looks set to spend next season as a spectator, after Sampdoria said his hoped-for move to Real Madrid is now almost certain to fall through. Karembeu is allowed to train but not play for the team as a punishment for having made a private agreement last year to join the Spanish club. The deal meant Real's offer to Sampdoria was much lower than rivals bids, but the midfielder refused to go anywhere else. Club president Enrico Mantovani said he did not now expect real to improve their offer. "It's not in their interest. In a year's time, his contract here expires and they won't have to pay a peseta for him. And Real Madrid can wait for Christian."

## Redfearn scores for Barnsley

LONDON (AP) — Neil Redfearn scored in the 56th minute Tuesday to give Barnsley a 1-0 win against Crystal Palace and register the club's first Premier League goal in its 110-year history. The Barnsley skipper, who was a major force behind the club's promotion to the Premier League having scored 17 goals last season, blasted a left-foot shot from 25 yards (22 meters) out which dipped into the top right-hand corner of the net. The goal shocked palace — a former club of Redfearn's which was also promoted to the Premier League this season — after the first half had produced sloppy soccer from both sides.

## Unsworth set for West Ham

LONDON (R) — Everton's former England defender David Unsworth has agreed to join West Ham in a deal that sees midfielder Danny Williamson going in the other direction. Unsworth, valued at three million pounds ($4.7 million), has been in talks with West Ham manager Harry Redknapp but agreement is unlikely to be finalised until later in the week. "West Ham have already talked money and contracts with Dave, while we have done it the other way round and sorted out Danny's medical," said Everton manager Howard Kendall. Unsworth played for England once in 1995 but his form dipped in the following season and he made only irregular appearances for his club.





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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

### NOT MUCH, BUT ENOUGH

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

| | NORTH | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠107 | |
| | ♡96 | |
| | ◇8753 | |
| | ♣98652 | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| ♠842 | | ♠Q65 |
| ♡K108753 | | ♡AJ42 |
| ◇64 | | ◇KJ |
| ♣J7 | | ♣AQ104 |
| | SOUTH | |
| | ♠AKJ93 | |
| | ♡Q | |
| | ◇AQ1092 | |
| | ♣K3 | |

The bidding:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2♡ | Pass | 4♡ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening lead: Seven of ♡

In the real world, North has a terrible hand. In Atlanta it was gold, as the defenders on this deal from the Swiss Team event at the Fall North American Championships discovered.

West's weak two opening was light by any standards. However, East had enough to compensate for any normal deficiency, and the defender thought Christmas had arrived early when South came in with four spades.

West led a low heart and declarer was entitled to feel somewhat disappointed with the dummy that appeared. East rose with the ace of hearts and continued the suit for declarer, Steve Levy of Los Vegas, to ruff. How would you continue?

Levy found a spectacular play to deliver the contract as the cards lie. At trick two he led the jack of spades!

If East wins, the queen of spades and returns a trump, the ten becomes a dummy entry to take the diamond finesse and the diamond suit will provide a second entry for a club lead up to the king. (If the defenders try to shorten declarer, the heart is ruffed in dummy and a club is discarded from the closed hand.)

If the defender refuses to take the queen of trumps, declarer counters by cashing the ace of diamonds and exiting with the queen, leaving East with a Hobson's choice. A heart is ruffed on the table and South's only other loser is a club. On the return of the queen of spades, declarer wins, draws another round of trumps and dummy has a diamond entry to lead a club toward the king. And should East shift to a club, declarer rises with the king and is in complete control.

A stunning demonstration of refusing to concede defeat until everything else has been tried.


TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
*Steven Spielberg's*
THE LOST WORLD
(JURASSIC PARK)
*Starring: Jeff Goldblum & Julian Moore*
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
*Jim Carrey ... in*
LIAR LIAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
*Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in*
DEVIL'S OWN
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15
THE ENGLISH PATIENT
Shows: 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
The movie event of the summer is here
*Arnold Schwarzenegger ...in*
BATMAN & ROBIN
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
*Jim Carry...in*
DUMB & DUMBER
Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155
The satirical play
AMN AI AI YA HO
*performance starts at 8:30 p.m.*
The theatre is closed every Friday.
For reservations call 625155

## Society on the Move

# But the show must go on . . .

*The Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Benjamin Gilman, is expected in Amman this coming week for talks with senior officials. Mr. Gilman was elected as a congressman from New York in 1972 and as such is the eighth ranking Republican in seniority today. He is described as moderate on economics and cultural issues and more conservative on foreign policy. The 74-year-old lawmaker was opposed to U.S. intervention in Somalia and Haiti, but supported strategic air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs when they attacked civilians and threatened U.N. peacekeepers. He also supported lifting the international arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims. Mr. Gilman, who is Jewish, is a longtime supporter of Israel and thus promotes the congressional practice of earmarking aid to Israel as well as Egypt.*

****

***UPPING THE ANTE:*** *With the Central Bank of Jordan requirement that all banks in the country either raise their capitals or form mergers to reach the new minimum capital of JD 20 million, Philadelphia Bank has opted for the capital rise. It has done so by raising sufficient investments from several sources: the three major shareholders joining in being Prince Walid Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, Khalifeh Ben Abdul Mohsen Al Seif, another Saudi Arabian investor, and prominent Jordanian businessman Sabih Masri. This is the third confirmed investment in Jordan made by Prince Walid. The first is the planned establishment of the Four Seasons Hotel, of the Canadian-based chain of premiere properties. The second was his investment in the Dead Sea Bromine Company formed a few months ago.*

****

***WANTED:*** *When Assim Hindawi resigned as head of the Industrial Estates Corporation last week and was replaced by Amer Abdul Wahab Majali, the son of a former prime minister, whispers could be heard — "political appointment." But the powers that be at the IEC will tell you that the corporation, made up of public and private representation, was in need of a technocrat, an engineer to oversee the expansion plans of the institute. Thus the appointment of Mr. Majali by the IEC board of directors which comprises representatives of the Industrial Development Bank, Citibank, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Export Promotion Corporation and other organisations. Mr. Majali is the civil engineer who will be charged with spearheading the construction of new industrial cities around the country as well as improving the infrastructure services of existing estates. His predecessor, Mr. Hindawi, is a manager and had been brought out of retirement and reinstated on contract basis to head the IEC. He is now expected to return to retirement.*

****

***COMMENTS ANYONE?*** *The print media was chockfull of controversy over the performance of two institutions:*

***The Jubilee School*** *was chastised by columnists and even parents for not living up to alleged guarantees of super performance by its students on the tawjihi exams. The 105 students of the Jubilee School's first graduating class all passed the exam, according to JS Director Fathi Jarwan. A total of 53 students scored above 90, and the school was ranked number one in the Kingdom in terms of overall average of the graduates, from an all inclusive tally of male, female students from government and private schools, Dr. Jarwan said. But Dr. Jarwan stressed that the aim of the school is to provide an advance academic programme which meets the intellectual, effective and creative needs of its gifted students and thus challenges them to achieve their full potential. He said the Jubilee School officials never gave guarantees of their students falling in the top ten of the nation. He faults the existing system enforced by the Ministry of Education for creating a society of parents and students obsessed with grade percentiles because of the limitations imposed by admissions requirements of public universities. For Dr. Jarwan and his associates, the fact that 13 of the school's graduates have been admitted with scholarships to top schools in the U.S. and England, including one student who scored 88 and was still awarded a $31,000 scholarship, is what they are proud of. "The school is not a tawjihi oriented school," but that does not mean that its student will not score high or among the top ten, Dr. Jarwan said. A crucial feature of the school, he said, is that its admissions programme is based on several arenas of proficiency, intelligence tests, aptitude tests, verbal, mathematical and logical reasoning. In other words the home school grade is but one of many criteria considered in admitting a student to the Jubilee School. "We are preparing students for leadership in their fields of choice. We are concerned with the total personality of the student, otherwise there is no reason to open a school of this sort," said Dr. Jarwan.*

***Also under attack*** *in the press last week, Jerash Festival Director Akram Masarwah pooh-poohed the festival bashing spree in the country's newspapers as the culture and arts event came to a close. Mr. Masarwah said allegations targeted at the festival administration, including poor organisation, abuse of journalists, favouritism to certain newspapers, etc., were all issues of personal squabbling between the newspapers and the journalists themselves. He said some journalists who were given identity badges to wear while covering the events were miffed when gate officials checked their badges. According to Mr. Masarwah, several journalists said "How dare you check our badges," and began attacking the gate officials. He said scenes such as these spurred some of the bad press. Other negative reports, he said, came from papers, "one in particular" that did not receive advertisements from the festival. As for spats between the hacks working at the site, they ranged from accusations of journalists on the festival payroll to reporters being accorded extra accommodations. Mr. Masarwah, who is also secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism, dismissed the bickering saying, "We have nothing to do with journalists' quarrels among themselves." On allegations of scalping of tickets for events, the festival director admitted that it is difficult to control scalping, adding that tickets were sold event by event so as not to let tickets stay long in the hands of purchasers. He said firmly, also, that he would defend every Jerash Festival administration staff member against the more serious accusations that they themselves were scalping tickets.*

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***ASIAN DAYS:*** *The Ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Indonesia celebrate their countries' national days this month with receptions about town. For India and Pakistan the occasions are particularly momentous because both mark 50 years of independence this week. And next week Indonesia commemorates the 52nd anniversary of the proclamation of independence — the country attained actual independence in December 1949. Indian Ambassador Gajanan Wakankar, Pakistani Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi and Indonesian Ambassador Eddy Sumantri and their spouses are hosting separate receptions. For India the occasion will be feted at the Forte Grand Hotel on Friday. The Pakistanis celebrate by hosting the first evening reception to be held at the renovated embassy premises in Jabal Weibdeh. Indonesian Ambassador Sumantri also hosts his country's celebrations at the embassy residence on Zahran Street in Jabal Amman on Tuesday.*

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***A 20TH CENTURY MILESTONE:*** *And speaking of ambassadors and anniversaries, U.S. envoy Wesley Egan and his wife Virginia celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary with dancing party at their residence in Abdoun on Friday night. Let the toasts begin!*

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*News of young professional women on the move or already moved takes us outside Jordan.*

***BANKING ON BAHRAIN:*** *Public Relations Coordinator for the Office of the Crown Prince Haya Abu Zeid was made an offer she could not refuse. With six years of communications experience at the Royal Court, Ms. Abu Zeid heads for Manama to become senior vice president for corporate communications of the Bahrain-Middle East Bank, a Bahrain-owned financial institution. She leaves Friday and will start work in September.*

****

***A LABOUR OF LOVE:*** *Mary Kawar, already made her move a few months ago and joined the team of Taleb Rifai at the Beirut offices of the International Labour Organisation. Dr. Rifai had headed the Investment Promotion Corporation in Amman before taking the ILO offer in Lebanon. He appointed Dr. Kawar, who obtained a Ph.D. with honours from the London School of Economics and wrote her thesis on development on female employment in Jordan, as advisor on women workers and gender questions at the United Nations agency's regional office for Arab countries. Dr. Kawar was in Amman last week to plan for a regional conference to be held here in cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation "Micro-enterprise Development for Women."*

****

***LOVE & MARRIAGE:*** *Another Jordan Times freelance writer enters the bonds of matrimony on Friday. She is Farida Salfiti, who will wed Amir Azari of Tehran. The bride obtained her masters in international relations and Middle East politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. The groom is a civil engineer who graduated from Southbank Polytechnic in England. He is a businessman living in London, where the couple will reside and where Ms. Salfiti will pursue a research and writing career. The couple's parents, Osama and Jacqueline Salfiti and Mahmoud and Shahla Azari will celebrate the occasion at the InterContinental Hotel Friday evening.*

****

***GOOOOOOOOAL:*** *While Khaled, formerly Cheb Khaled, the Algerian singer of Rai (opinion) music, may not be in Amman tomorrow for the grand opening of the Hard Rock Cafe, Sebastian Mendez, the agent for Diego Maradona, Argentina's famous soccer star, was indeed here to prepare for the "futbolistas"s" Middle East tour. The plans include a stop in Jordan in September and a charity match in Baghdad for orphaned Iraqi children. Mr. Mendez was in Baghdad where he held talks with the Iraqi Football Federation. He says that Maradona wants to prove to the world that the U.N. sanctions against Iraq are debilitating Iraq's youth. According to Mr. Mendez, Maradona has overcome his drug addiction which led to his being banned from participating in international soccer matches for several years. The agent said the soccer player will return to Argentina to play for the national team. The world cup victor is now playing for the Boca Juniors in Argentina.*

****

***MOVE OVER HOT SPOTS:*** *Back to the Hard Rock Cafe, due to open tonight with a private reception starting at 9:00 p.m. This ambitious venture brings a novel concept-turned global chain to Amman. The partners in this venture are all industrialists who are entering a new arena. In a 50-50 partnership with Hard Rock Middle East, the Jordanian entrepreneurs are Nabil Saruaf, Ahmad Taher, Ayser Mufleh and Firas Khashman. The establishment can seat 340 in the summer, and serves, if you are a Hard Rock novice, American and Mexican cuisine. We hear that a stand-in act for Khaled is in the making, and the name circulating is none other than the illustrious Akel Biltaji, our very own minister of tourism.*

***Jennifer Hamarneh***

# Dimension Films — Miramax's exploitation house making a bloody mint

*By John Horn*
*The Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — One Miramax movie is among the most beloved romantic epics in years and swept the Academy Awards.

The other Miramax title is a bloody low-budget slasher film whose biggest prize was an MTV Movie Award.

By all accounts, The English Patient should have clobbered Scream, and yet the grisly thriller is proving far more popular in domestic theaters and video stores.

In fact, Scream is more profitable than almost any 1996 movie outside of Independence Day, if you look at cost vs return.

With a reported $100 million theatrical gross and the No. 1 spot on the video rental charts, Scream has resuscitated the horror genre, nearly moribund a decade ago.

And it has further established Miramax's exploitation film label, Dimension Films, as among Hollywood's biggest surprise stories.

"In terms of putting dimension on the map, scream did it," says the film's coproducer, Cary Woods.

Once a purveyor of crummy B-movies such as Children Of The Corn 2 and Hellraiser III, Miramax's violent sister label is now turning out relatively sophisticated scary movies worthy of critical attention, including the rampaging mutant cockroach movie Mimic, opening on Aug. 22.

Dimension's Scream 2, a highly anticipated sequel, should be in theatres by Dec. 12, and upcoming titles include Nightwatch and Phantoms.

Miramax, a part of the Walt Disney Co., has no plans to get out of the art film business. But the returns for so-called genre films have changed Dimension's profile from an interesting hobby to powerful industry force. Once content to buy finished films and snap up rights to horror franchises, Dimension is now producing up to 90 per cent of its own product — a mix of horror and action, science-fiction and urban films.

Dimension is concurrently attracting some unusual talent.

Steven Soderbergh, the maker of the groundbreaking art film Sex, Lies And Videotape, wrote the script for Nightwatch. Quentin Tarantino, who wrote and directed Pulp Fiction, is planning several Dimension productions, and Chasing Amy filmmaker Kevin Smith has told Dimension he has quite a few thriller ideas.

"They're extremely open-minded about talent," says Robert Newman, an agent at international creative management who has several clients making Dimension Films. Adds Woods: "A lot of talented filmmakers who might not have contemplated making a film in the genre now might."

"There hasn't been anything new in a long time," Dimension Chairman Bob Weinstein says in explaining the sudden interest from filmmakers and audiences alike. "But films like Scream and Mimic are not films cut out of a cookie cutter. They're made by real filmmakers."

Wes Craven, the veteran horror director who made scream, says audiences grew tired of scary movies because the films were shallow, repetitive. "It's a genre that can be so lucrative and such a money machine (that) it falls into the hands of people who are more interested in the money than the movie," Craven says from the set of the Scream sequel.

"What is very seldom recognised is there is a tremendous hunger to have these subjects dealt with in an intelligent way. The movies that are very intelligent make more money than those that are not."

Unlike the umpteenth Freddy Krueger movie, Kevin Williamson's very scary Scream script is clever. The characters constantly poke fun at the genre; the dialogue is filled with references to the Halloween, Friday The 13th and Nightmare On Elm Street films. At one point, a character even confuses filmmaker Craven with John Carpenter.

The witty script is bolstered by a solid cast. Scream stars are among the hottest young actors, including Neve Campbell (Party Of Five), Drew Barrymore (Batman Forever) and Courteney Cox (Friends).

Most of the cast is back for the sequel. To protect the surprise ending, the movie is being filmed under such tight security that crew members must wear ID badges.

Miramax launched Dimension in 1993 in part to strike back at a rival movie company invading Miramax's turf. New Line Cinema, which had made millions on the Nightmare On Elm Street movies, started a small imprint to release quality art films. Those kinds of movies were Miramax's lifeblood, so in spite, Miramax launched Dimension to cut into New Line's niche.

The first release was The Crow, a movie several studios passed on following actor Brandon Lee's accidental on-set death. It grossed more than $50 million. Other early Dimension films were the vampire movie From Dusk Till Dawn, Jackie Chan's action film Supercop and the sequel The Crow: City Of Angels.

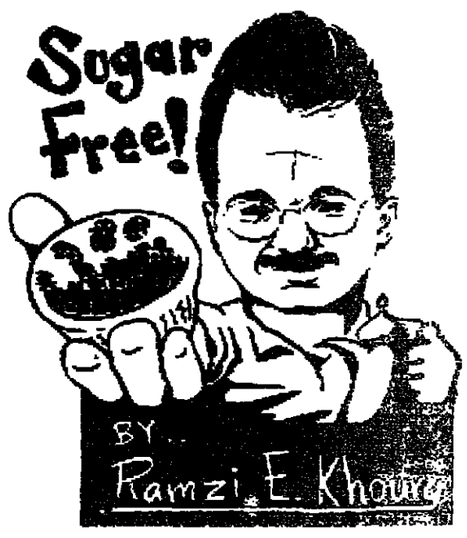
Genre films typically cost far less than the average $40 million studio feature and even less than the modest The English Patient, which cost $27 million and has grossed $7.9 million.

Consequently, if a genre film takes off, the returns can be eye-popping. Scream cost about $15 million, and Miramax says it has grossed $103 million at North American theatres. Rival companies say the gross is overstated by as much as $20 million; Miramax denies the manipulation charges.

Other deals have been equally fruitful. In 1995, Dimension spent $2.5 million acquiring Highlander: The Final Dimension and it grossed $14 million at North American theatres and sold well in video stores. Halloween 6 was produced for $4 million and grossed $15 million. Made for about $3.1 million, The Prophecy grossed $16 million.

Mimic, Dimension's next release, is coming out at the end of the highly competitive summer season. Its director, Guillermo Del Toro, hopes the Mira Sor-vino film will scare the heck out of moviegoers numbed by formulaic studio dramas and pre-Scream thriller sequels.

"The movies have become safe. And there's nothing worse than having films of this genre be too safe," the director says. "I'm a huge fan of roller coasters. The best ones are the old ones, made of wood. Because they creak. And you're never sure the car isn't going to go flying off."




# A solution is now available!

MY DAUGHTER used to know a great song when she was much younger than six, and every time she sang the song, the tune stuck to me for days. Now I know why! If I remember it right, the song goes like this.

Little bunny Yahu hopping through the fors & piel ing up the occupied and bopping them on the head. Then came the big fairy (Albright or All-So-Bright, I can't remember) and she said: Little bunny Yahu, I don't wanna see you, picking up Palestinians and bopping them on the head. I'll count to three.. there she gives him an ultimatum of any kind, really, and adds or I'll turn you into another Noriega!"

3 year old's fantasy! If Netanyahu was a bunny, the Egyptians would have mixed him with Moukoul.huh! Obviously, the Palestinians are not mice since then bite chops your leg off. And not to say the least, Albright is no more the Palestinians' fairy than I have a chance at being declared the awaited Messiah or understanding the issue of security!

You would think that if Israel was unable to stop suicide bombers for other types of bombers for that matter) before Arafat was even in the West Bank, why should he be able to do it? It gives you the impression that Rabbub, hand-in-hand with Jabali, are more capable than the Shin Bet, Mossad and Bibi's wife, Sara, who has managed to keep the security of her home well since the last scandal!

Also, why are those guys blowing themselves up like that? What's wrong with conventional terrorism?! It gives you the impression that even though they want Palestine liberated, they don't want to be around to see it happen! Coming to think about it, Arafat should explain next time he is on CNN that those guys chose to commit suicide before they have to live under his rule. If that doesn't absolve him of their actions, nothing will!

But then, knowing Netanyahu, he might justify the phenomena on charges of PNA corruption, which will give him the opportunity to say again and again that Arafat has lost his credibility. Credibility from the mouth of Bibi? Honestly! But then again anything is possible on CNN!

Nevertheless, don't despair! Scrap all the above from your memory cluttered with what you ate last night and what you plan to cook for tomorrow, for I have found the solution to the crisis starting from the root of the problem!

I, Ramzi E. Khoury, hereby declare that unlike Dennis and Miguel, I have pinpointed the disease, not only that, but I have also discovered the cure!

The problem we have is simply that by the time we get to start any sort of understanding with an Israeli government, another pops up and we have to start all over again! What is much worse is that when we get a Bibi in office, we start hoping that he will pop down within four years and hang around waiting for it to happen! While we wait, the other leader, who had just become the opposition, pops down and a more radical one, whose history shows he shouldn't be opposing in the first place, pops up to replace him!

Where does Israel think it is? Here in the Middle East of everywhere, we do autocracy, and only autocracy. This is how we've been able to achieve stability and understanding. For one thing, is there anyone who doesn't understand any Arab leader very well! If you find one, label him with the word 'vegetable' and cook him into a stew! He doesn't deserve to live among us!

Now for the cure. The solution to the problem is also very simple. I hereby call upon the Israelis to wise-up by revoking their unnatural state of democracy in order to *fit in this region, or we will all have to become democratic*, and then let us see how Israel will negotiate with so many novice leaders, each unpredictable one of them with an attitude problem, and worse, each one of them changing every four years!

## Sugar Free Riddle

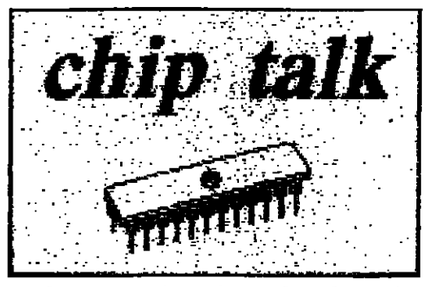
**The first to solve this riddle will be appointed Middle East's Peace Envoy to Afghanistan, the second will have to do there what Moratinos is doing here.**

***If you take a load of something that stinks, and without anyone seeing you, sculpt it into a dove, deodorise it and paint it white.. what does the final product symbolise?***

**Note:** Middle East leaders and their wives are not allowed to participate in this contest.

# His master's voice

By Jean-Claude Elias




THE RECOGNITION of the human voice by computers is one of the technology's most fascinating applications. Talking directly to a machine has a much stronger appeal than pushing its buttons or sending it commands by typing them on a keyboard. The process is not only more attractive, it also presents the advantage of being faster and more intuitive. Imagine no more typing to learn.

Examples of people giving orders to computers in movies abound. Remember Stanley Kubrick's 2001, A Space Odyssey and the Hal machine or Star Trek. In real life and since the early eighties, voice recognition (VR) has been implemented on super and mini computers only and with average accuracy. PC users had to wait till the nineties to see manufacturers and software designers tackle the issue and make it available to the common mortal.

Olivetti, the Italian information technology leader was working on such development a few years ago and Chip Talk reported on the issue in 1993. Creative Labs, the Singaporean company that produces the famous SoundBlaster sound cards for personal computers recently started shipping a simple VR utility with some of its products. Another company however seems to have outsmarted all the others this year by releasing the first VR programme that works on PCs. It is easy to use and before all, provides a very low, negligible error rate.

Kurzweil, known for its sophisticated music synthesisers and keyboards has launched the first version of its VoicePad. Curious to find whether this was another gimmick or a truly useful, usable product, I downloaded a free-of-charge evaluation copy from the company's Web site on the Internet. The least I can say is that I was impressed with the results. It really works.

Install the software (VoicePad) and start it, take a microphone plugged in your sound card, talk in plain English and watch the words being printed. It's fast enough to beat most typists and makes no spelling mistakes at all. To activate menus, move the cursor, delete words and perform various tasks, you can give orders to the software through previously defined terms like FileMenu, StopListening, NewLine, BoldOn, BoldOff, DeleteThat, etc. Naturally you can define and add any word or term you want and the system will recognise it. Training is simple, fast and reduced to a minimum.

For a first version the results are remarkable. Kurzweil seems to have taken all aspects of VR into consideration. When you use VoicePad for the first time the system performs an analysis of the room's ambient noise level, your voice timbre and other parameters, in order to achieve optimum results. The system also lets you define multiple users with various voice characteristics. No wonder it took a music technology designer to produce such convincing results.

Like with most advanced software, there are minimum hardware requirements to be able to operate VoicePad at all and to obtain satisfactory performance. A good Pentium machine with 16 MB memory, 30 MB of free disk space, a decent sound card and a high quality microphone are the least you can provide to please VoicePad. This is a very little price to pay to enjoy talking to your PC. The programme was voted as "the most interesting new software" of the year by the international specialised press.

# JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

## Thursday, August 14, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | America's Funniest People |
| 3:30 | He Shoots He Scores |
| 4:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Trivial Pursiut |
| 8:00 | Cinema Cinema Cinema |
| 8:30 | Lois And Clark — Superman |
| 9:10 | Kung Fu — The Legend Continues |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Movie |
| 12:00 | Step By Step |

## Friday, August 15, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:05 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | French Programmes |
| 4:00 | Family Matters |
| 4:30 | NBA |
| 6:10 | French Film |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | The Health Show |
| 8:30 | Hawkeye |
| 9:10 | Drama Series |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Mini Series |
| 12:00 | Movie |

## Saturday, August 16, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Twinkle |
| 2:30 | Wishbone |
| 3:00 | Blue Heelers |
| 3:30 | World Of Geo |
| 4:00 | The Valley Between |
| 4:30 | Tilt |
| 5:00 | French Programme |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Ties That Bind |
| 8:30 | Prism |
| 9:10 | Time Trax |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Movie |
| 12:00 | Ellen |

## Sunday, August 17, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoon |
| 3:00 | Energy Express |
| 4:00 | American Chart Show |
| 6:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Fresh Prince Of Belair |
| 8:00 | Cinema, Cinema, Cinema |
| 8:30 | National Geographic |
| 9:10 | Renegade |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | One West Waikiki |
| 11:15 | Sisters |

## Monday, August 18, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | The Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoon |
| 3:00 | Gillette Sports Special |
| 3:30 | Deep Water Haven |
| 4:00 | Animal Show |
| 4:30 | Ocean Girl |
| 5:15 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Murphy Brown |
| 8:30 | Babylon 5 |
| 9:10 | Highlander |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:35 | Emergency Room (E.R.) |
| 11:15 | Homicide |

## Tuesday, August 19, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:05 | Square One TV |
| 3:00 | Dog House |
| 3:35 | French Programmes |
| 4:00 | Album Show |
| 6:10 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Coach |
| 8:00 | Tilt 23.5 |
| 8:30 | Encounter |
| 9:10 | Nature Of Things (Documentary) |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | West Beach |
| 11:15 | Mini Series |

## Wednesday, August 20, 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | Global Gardner |
| 3:30 | Spell Binder |
| 4:00 | Monsters Today |
| 4:30 | Border Town |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Soldier's Diary |
| 8:30 | Oprah Winfrey Show |
| 9:10 | Spenser For Hire |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Land's End |
| 11:15 | American Gothic |

# *And you thought it was just a harmless hair-dryer*

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen




RIGHT NEXT to my house there is a roundabout into which cars come far too fast, even though there is a 50kmh speed limit. The neighbours have asked the police once or twice to do something about it. The police have come with their speed-measuring devices and reported that the average speed of cars is nothing to worry about, and then gone away, after which the cars have gone on speeding in excess of the 50kmh.

Meanwhile, nearby, there is another roundabout with the same speed limit. But because the drivers on this one are a little more adventurous, the police like to set up a speed trap there from time to time. One policeman sits concealed with his speed measurer, and radios to his mate every time a car comes past doing more than 50kmh, whereupon his mate steps out of the bushes where he is concealed and waves you to a halt to give you a ticket.

What I would like to be able to do is measure the speed of cars coming down the roundabout to my house for myself, but I have a funny feeling that the police would not like me to do this.

About a year ago there was a story in the papers about a man in Salt who was so fed up with cars racing past his house on flat run that he stood outside his gate pointing his wife's hair-dryer at the traffic. The reason for this is that hair-dryers look very much like speed-measuring devices.

There were two immediate effects. One was that the traffic slowed right down when the drivers saw him. The other was that the police arrested him and took him to court where he was found guilty and fined for...

For what? That is what I cannot remember. For embarrassing the police? For dishonestly handling a hair-dryer? For possessing an offensive imitation weapon?

I wish I knew. But if it is illegal to point a hair-dryer at traffic, I am sure it is even more illegal to get a real speed-measuring device.

I am not sure exactly how to go about getting one. But if I were to go to the nearby roundabout at a time when the police were stopping drivers, and if I were to stand near the hidden one with a sign reading "SLOW DOWN - SPEED TRAP AHEAD," on what charge could they get me?

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

*Mohammad A. Shuqair*

## BRUSH YOUR MEMORY

BELOW are some famous quotations.
Can you remember who they were said by?

* ***Cowards die many times before their death; The valiant never taste of death but once.***

* ***The government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from death.***

* ***Where wealth accumulates, men decay.***

* ***Man by nature is a political animal.***

* ***Take care to get what you like or you will be forced to like what you get.***

* ***The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent full of doubt.***

* * * *

## LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** He overstepped the bounds of common sense.
**Ta'adda hudood at-tafkeer as-saleem.**

** He's bothering me.
**Innahu yudayeqoni.**

** I had a nervous breakdown.
**Osibt bin'heyar asabi.**

** The glass brimmed over.
**Tafah al-kayl.**

** He's my dearest foe.
**Innahu ado'wee al-ladood.**

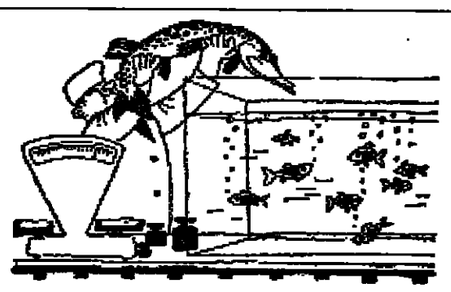
** He played the devil with me.
**Awqa'a bee dararan jaseeman.**

** I kept him within bounds.
**Awqaftuho inda had'dehi.**

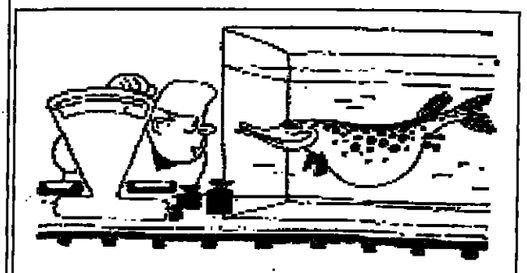
** I feel at ease now.
**Ash'orr birteyah al-aan.**

* * * *

## JOKES



"I am sure they will make friends."



"And where are the little ones?!"

* * *

• **MARY:** "The hat you wear suits you to a T, Gamila."
**GAMILA:** "Really? How could it be? It covers all my face."
**MARY:** "For this very reason, it suits you quite well."

* * * *

## BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the other constellation known as the Hunter?
2. William..... is the author of Vanity Fair.
3. What is an aster?
4. Whose film is The Snows of Kilimonjaro?
5. .....Sabatini is a tennis star. Fill in this player's first name.
6. A U.S. city known as the "Big Apple." What is its name?
7. Small, white-daisy flower of the mountains. What is it?
8. It's a type of pedestrian crossing. Guess what it is.
9. In Greek myth, what is the Underworld?
10. La Bohàme is an Italian opera. Who was the composer?

* * * *

## PUZZLES

*DEDUCTIONS*

ANSWER THE CLUES with 5-letter words, the letters of which can be found in one or the other of the diagrams. As each letter is used deduct it from the diagram (i.e. cross it out), for each letter can only be used once.

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

If your solutions and deductions are correct (check them with solutions below), the whole twenty-five letters of each diagram will be accounted for.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | C | C |
| E | G | H | H | I |
| L | N | O | O | O |
| P | R | R | S | S |
| T | T | T | W | Y |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | A | C |
| C | E | G | H | I |
| L | N | O | O | O |
| P | R | R | S | S |
| T | T | T | W | Y |

**A HANDY TIP:** If answer can be made from both diagrams, leave it until you have eliminated to a point where it can only be made up from the letters of one. For example, in No. 1 the answer to clue No. 1 (WITCH) can be made from both diagrams. The answer to clue No. 9 (THIGH) can only be made from the left-hand diagram. This also uses up the letter "T", so the word WITCH can now only be made from the right-hand diagram.

One last word of advice: Use a soft pencil for crossing off the used letters — and keep an eraser handy.

## ANSWERS

### PUZZLES

• SOLUTIONS which were taken from the left-hand diagram are in CAPITALS. Those from the right-hand diagram are in small letters.

1. witch
2. SWOOP
5. molar
7. cargo
9. THIGH
2. topaz
4. NACRE
6. asset
7. CORAL
10. TOAST

* * * *

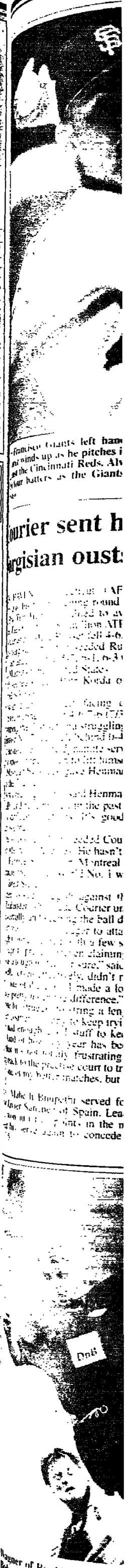
### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Orion.
2. Thackeray.
3. A colourful garden flower.
4. Gregory Peck.
5. Gabriela
6. New York.
7. Edelweiss.
8. Pelican.
9. Hades, the ruler of the Underground, commonly called Pluto.
10. Giacomo Puccini.

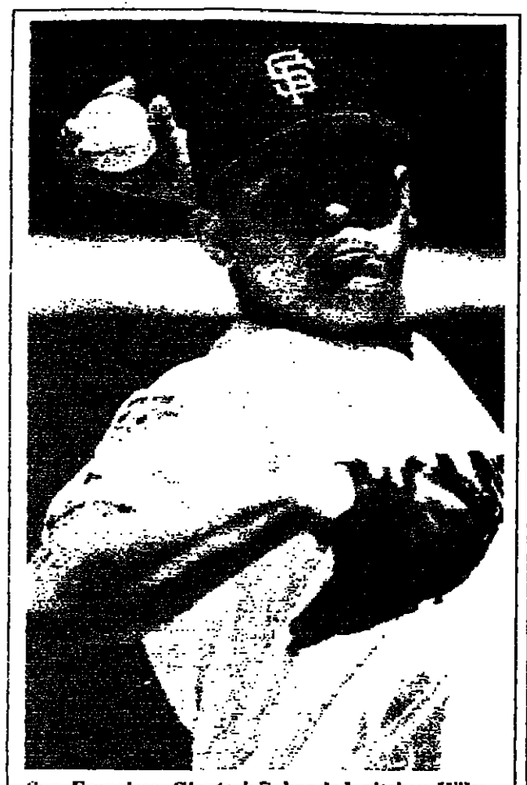
* * * *

### BRUSH YOUR MEMORY

* **Shakespeare (Julius Caesar)**
* **Lincoln (Gettysburg Address)**
* **Goldsmith**
* **Aristotle**
* **George Bernard Shaw**
**Russell**



Rapid Vienna (L) Brno fight for the ball d preliminary round first leg m match 6-1 (Reuters photo)



San Francisco Giants left handed pitcher Wilson Alvarez winds up as he pitches in the second inning against the Cincinnati Reds. Alvarez struck out the first four batters as the Giants won 7-3 (Reuters photo)

# Rain keeps Ivanisevic on brink of victory

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Rain showers kept Goran Ivanisevic from finishing off his second-round match against Jason Stoltenberg Tuesday here as weather ruled the $1 million ATP RCA championships.

The second-seeded Croatian, one of the biggest servers in the game, posted a modest total of eight untouchable serves as he raced to a 7-6 (7/5), 4-1 lead over World No. 60 Stoltenberg from Australia.

Ivanisevic, the 1996 finalist against Pete Sampras, had just held for 4-1 after breaking the Aussie in the second game. The pair engaged in heated and entertaining exchanges during the first set, which Ivanisevic won after double-faulting on the first of two set points.

But rain came and after just under two-and-a-half hours, frustrated officials had no choice but to send the players home with more bad weather forecast overnight.

Fifth seed Carlos Moya of Spain never got on court against American Steve Campbell.

Seeds Alberto Berasategui of Spain and Swede Thomas Johansson were upset.

No. 11 Berasategui was beaten by another clay-courter, Australian Richard Fromberg, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1. Johansson, the No. 15 who won back-to-back 1997 indoor titles, lost to American wild card Glenn Weiner 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Australians tasted multiple success as Josh Eagle and Mark Woodforde joined Fromberg as winners.

Eagle, a qualifier, booked a Wednesday meeting against defending champion and runaway World No. 1 Pete Sampras through a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 win over Jonathan Stark.

Woodforde ousted Belgian Johan Van Herck 6-1, 6-3. The only loss for Australia hit Scott Draper, eliminated 6-3, 6-4 by Fabrice Santoro of France.

Unknown American No. 243 Weiner took a second career match victory on the tour as he beat Johansson.



Goran Ivanisevic

"The crowd seemed to be on my side, I don't know why," he said.

Sampras was enjoying a day off to celebrate his 26th birthday sitting atop the tennis heap before taking on eagle.

Twelfth seed Chris Woodruff survived a 90-minute daytime rain delay to stage a 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 over American hope Justin Gimelstob.

# Osaka Japan's candidate for 2008

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese Olympic Committee Wednesday named the city of Osaka as its candidate to host the 2008 Olympic games.

Osaka obtained 27 votes to edge out Yokohama, the port city in the suburbs of Tokyo, which gained 17 votes.

The International Olympic Committee will not make a choice on the 2008 host city until 2001. Pusan in South Korea, the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, Moscow and Beijing are among the cities to have already indicated interest.

The venue for the 2004 Games will be decided on September 5 in Lausanne. Rome, Athens, Stockholm, Cape Town and Buenos Aires are in contention and those that are not successful may well decide to bid again for 2008.

Osaka has a population of 2.6 million people and is considered the No. 2 city in Japan, economically and industrially, behind Tokyo.

Japan last hosted a summer Olympics in Tokyo in 1964. It also hosted the Winter Games in 1972 in Sapporo and will host the next Winter Games in Nagano in February.

# Courier sent home as Sargisian ousts Rosset

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AFP) — Jim Courier slumped to his third opening round defeat in three weeks and Brit Tim Henman rallied to avoid ouster by Daniel Vacek Tuesday at the $1 million ATP international.

Switzerland's Marc Rosset fell 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 to Armenian Sargis Sargisian, but top seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov advanced with a 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 triumph over qualifier Cecil Mamiit of the United States.

Fifth seeded Czech Petr Korda overcame Jan-Michael Gambill 6-3, 6-3.

Henman found himself facing defeat against Vacek before recovering to win 4-6 7-6 (7/3) 6-4.

Dropping the first set and struggling at 4-4 in the second, the British No. 7 seed fell behind 0-40 on his serve.

But he discovered the dynamite serve that had been missing for most of the match to lift himself out of trouble, and a double-fault by Vacek gave Henman a vital break to lead 4-3 in the final set.

"I don't really give in," said Henman. "I'm a bit stubborn mentally and have proved in the past that I can dig myself out of difficult situations. It's good to come through a match like that."

Three weeks ago, 10th seeded Courier captured his 21st career title in Los Angeles. He hasn't won since. After losing to Fabrice Santoro in Montreal and Albert Costa in Cincinnati, the former World No. 1 was humbled here 6-2, 6-2 by Brett Steven.

Courier looked sluggish against the more enterprising New Zealander, who made Courier uncomfortable by serving powerfully and keeping the ball deep.

Steven was also more eager to attack from the net, and although Courier scored with a few stinging passes it was not enough to prevent Steven claiming an easy victory.

"It was a tough match for sure," said Courier. "He played very well, served effectively, didn't make many mistakes. On my side of the coin, I made a lot of unforced errors. That was pretty much the difference."

Despite his struggle to string a lengthy run of victories together, courier is happy to keep trying.

"I've had enough good stuff to keep me coming back. That's kind of how my year has been. I've had enough highs that it's not totally frustrating, and that keeps me coming back to the practise court to try and get better. This wasn't one of my better matches, but I'll bounce back," he vowed.

India's Mahesh Bhupathi served for the match in vain against Javier Sanchez of Spain. Leading 5-4 in the final set, he won just two points in the next two games, and dropped his serve again to concede the match 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 7-5.



Rene Wagner of Rapid Vienna (L) and Zdenek Cihlar of Boby Brno fight for the ball during their UEFA cup preliminary round first leg match. Rapid won the match 6-1 (Reuters photo)

# China's Le beats Thompson in Pan Pacific Swimming tourney

FUKUOKA (AFP) — World sprint record holder Le Jingyi saved face by winning the first gold medal for China over her favourite distance at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships on Wednesday.

The Olympic 100-metre champion, who was beaten by Jenny Thompson in the 100m Monday, gained a measure of revenge over the American to win the women's 50m with a time of 25.24 seconds.

Thompson came second in 25.42.

Le's victory, her first international win since prevailing in a relay race at the world short course championships in March, ended Thompson's hopes of winning six gold medals here.

Fellow American Brooke Bennett and Kristine Quance, holders of the best times of the season in the world so far, stroked to easy victories over their favourite distances.

Bennett, the Atlanta Olympic women's 800m freestyle champion, faced no serious challenge completing a start-to-finish victory in 8:26.36 to add to her 1,500m freestyle gold.

She was about three lengths ahead of Claudia poll of Costa Rica at the finish, who came in 8:29.05.

Quance, the winner in the women's 400m individual medley, made it a double by taking the 200m title in 2:13.79.

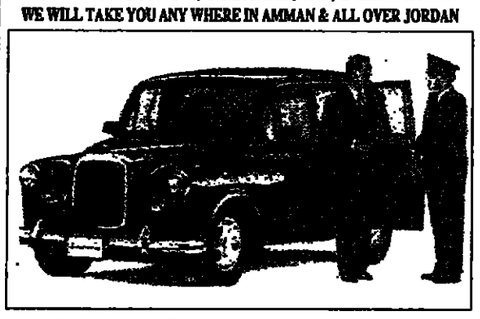
Matthew Dunn took the day's first gold medal for Australia and his second in the competition when he won the men's 200m individual medley in 2:01.14 in the absence of American tom Dolan.

Penny Heyns of South Africa, who suffered a shock defeat to Australia's golden girl Samantha Riley in the women's 100m breaststroke Monday, suffered yet another disaster in the 200m race.

The 22-year-old South African continued to struggle for the form which brought her two Olympic gold medals in Atlanta and slowed down after 100m to finish sixth in 2:30.72.

Riley raced to an easy victory in 2:25.34, three lengths ahead of Japan's Masami Tanaka in 2:28.66.

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# Iranian president faces first test in parliament

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's new President Mohammad Khatami is facing a potentially tough fight in gaining approval from the conservative-dominated parliament for some of his cabinet nominees, analysts said Wednesday.

Mr. Khatami submitted a list of cabinet members to parliament for approval on Tuesday seen as a delicate balancing act between the three major tendencies in the Islamist regime — radicals, moderates and conservatives.

A moderate cleric, Mr. Khatami scored a landslide victory over his conservative challenger, Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, in May's presidential election on a platform of social and economic reform.

His compromise cabinet, selected after tough bargaining with various government figures, did not appear, however, to contain the concessions conservative MPs were looking for.

Mr. Nateq-Nouri for his part has indicated he is willing to bury the hatchet and told state television that "the general feeling in the parliament is that there is a willingness to cooperate with Mr. Khatami's government."

Asked whether that would translate into approval during next week's vote for his list of 22 cabinet nominees, the speaker said, "that can't be foreseen."

Several members of the conservative majority in parliament hinted that some ministerial nominees would have difficulty getting through parliament.

The conservative newspaper Ressalat said Wednesday that Mr. Khatami's list "is full of deficiencies and for some ministers the vote will be difficult."

"For example, it will be very difficult to get the parliament to vote for Ataollah Mohajerani for Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance," the paper said.

Mr. Mohajerani, an outgoing vice president, is a controversial personality within the Islamist regime and proposed in 1989 that Iran normalize relations with the U.S.

"The presence in the cabinet of the one who originated this proposal hurts the government's image abroad," Ressalat said.

The major concession to the conservatives by Mr. Khatami, who swept to power with the support of radicals and moderates, was the nomination of a conservative deputy, Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, as intelligence minister.

Several of the nominees on the cabinet list are members of the radical faction and a return of the radical group to the forefront of the political scene risks emphasizing splits within the Islamist regime, observers said.

Since the Islamic revolution of 1979, radicals and conservatives have been pitted against each other at every level of power but the rivalry has so far not caused serious political dissension within the government.

The radicals, clustered around the association of religious combatants, have been ostracised and marginalised in parliament by the conservatives since 1992.

The moderates are technocrats from previous governments and generally avoid ideological debate with the two other factions, which are mainly comprised of clerics.

The differences between the three factions are not over the government's fundamentals but over methods, especially on how to "promote the expansion" of the Islamic revolution.

The radicals favour a "third world policy" as in the first 10 years after the revolution which toppled the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran. On economic matters, their positions diverge from those of the moderates.

For the moderate technocrats, the economy must remain free and follow the same rules as the world economy.

The radicals support increased government control over business and seek to limit the activities of the bazaar merchants who are traditionally close to the conservative clergy.

On cultural and social matters, the radicals are more open to reform while the conservatives, whose main organisation is the association of militant clergy, advocate change over the "medium to long term."

The conservatives, who were behind the Shah's fall, control most of the country's key institutions and stress the absolute authority of the Islamic Republic's spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The radicals accept the "principle" of Ayatollah Khamenei's leadership while remaining loyal to the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Ayatollah Khomeinei.



Charlotte Gibb, the British woman in her early 20s, is wheeled into a hospital in Beersheva early Wednesday after she was shot in the jaw and the hand on the road leading to the Red Sea resort of Eilat (Reuters photo)

# Young Briton shot dead, another injured in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — A British hitch-hiker was shot dead and his girlfriend was wounded in Israel's southern Negev desert Wednesday by a car driver who gave them a ride, police said.

They said the student couple, in their early 20s, had picked up a lift at a gas station in the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

They had stopped for a smoking break 120 kilometres north of Eilat at about 1 a.m. when the driver pulled out a gun and shot them.

Police and soldiers were combing the area but a police spokeswoman said the driver may have fled to Egypt.

"We do not exclude the possibility that the car has fled to the south towards the Egyptian border and probably crossed it," the spokeswoman said.

The motive for the shooting, the second attack involving young British tourists in Israel in three weeks, was unclear.

Officials at the Soroka Hospital in the town of Beersheva named the woman as Charlotte Gibb. Police said she was undergoing surgery.

The British consulate in Tel Aviv said the woman had injuries to the jaw and arm. It declined to identify the couple until both families had been notified but said the pair were university students.

Initial reports had said the couple, who were found by passing soldiers, had been in a taxi.

"We understand that they accepted a lift. It wasn't a taxi," British Vice-Consul Alistair Elder said. "They were travelling north when the driver stopped the car and subsequently shot both of them."

Ms. Gibb told reporters from her hospital bed, "we were having a cigarette outside the car during a rest in the journey. I saw flashes and he shot us."

Deputy police commander Dudi Cohen told Israel Radio that police were checking all leads but had little to go on.

"The description given by the woman is the only thing we have. It is a partial description, even 'partial minus'," he said.

# Washington sees no real change in Iran's attitude

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Washington has not seen any "fundamental change" in Tehran's policies that would justify rapprochement with Iran, the State Department said Tuesday in response to the unveiling of Iran's new cabinet.

State department spokesman James Rubin reiterated Washington's three areas of concern: "Their opposition to the Middle East peace process, their support for international terrorism, and their effort to pursue a nuclear weapons programme."

Mr. Rubin also said the U.S. would only pursue dialogue with Iran's regime if Tehran agreed to discuss Washington's concerns but "we have not seen that kind of offer yet."

The spokesman would not comment directly on Iran's new cabinet, saying "we'll obviously take a look at the people and see what we can conclude from that."

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami's new cabinet, unveiled Tuesday, includes relatively moderate officials, such as new Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi, Tehran's ambassador to the U.N. since 1989.

Mr. Kharazi replaced Ali Akbar Velayati, who began serving as foreign minister 16 years ago.

Mr. Rubin said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright knew Mr. Kharazi from her tenure as Washington's U.N. ambassador. "She did know him, as one tends to know the other ambassadors, but we didn't have a dialogue with him," he explained.

# 'Vampire of Tehran' lashed, hanged before big crowd

TEHRAN (AFP) — The "Vampire of Tehran," a taxi driver convicted of raping and murdering nine women, was hanged from a crane to cries of "Allahu Akhbar" (God is great) in a suburb of the Iranian capital Wednesday.

Gholam Reza Kordieh, 28, who was dubbed the "vampire" because he picked up his victims at night in his taxi, was whipped 214 times by relatives of his victims before his execution at the Olympic village west of the capital.

Kordieh, dressed in a grey jacket and trousers and barefoot, was hanged at 7:10 a.m. from the cable of a yellow crane as members of the crowd shouted out "Allahu Akhbar."

Hundreds of people, including women dressed in the head-to-toe black shroud known as the chador, attended the execution. Some had waited overnight to watch the hanging of the man who terrorised the capital for months. Local newspapers said Kordieh's body was to remain hanging from the crane cable for several hours following the execution.

The Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Kordieh left a will reading, "I do not owe anybody and nobody owes me. I ask for everyone's forgiveness."

Kordieh, originally from Ghotshan in northeastern Iran, was arrested several times since 1982 for kidnapping, rape and forgery but used aliases to escape heavy punishment. He was arrested in 1993 for the rape and murder of a young girl but escaped before his trial.

Arrested last month, Kordieh was convicted of murdering nine women between February and June after picking them up in a stolen car he used as a taxi and dubbed the "death sleigh" by the Tehran press.

After raping and killing the women, Kordieh burned their bodies to make identification difficult. His brother, sister and sister-in-law were given suspended prison sentences and ordered to receive 70 lashes each for failing to report his crimes.

# Israeli 'posters' suspect mentally fit to stand trial

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli woman accused of pasting posters on Hebron storefronts depicting the Prophet Mohammad as a pig is mentally fit to stand trial, an Israeli court ruled Wednesday.

Psychiatrists evaluated 26-year-old Tatiana Susskind during a week-long stay at a mental hospital this month.

"The decision was that she would stand trial after it was ruled there was no need to keep here in the mental hospital," said a court official.

The posters, pasted on June 27 across 20 storefronts on the Palestinian-ruled side of Hebron in the West Bank provoked an outpouring of Muslim rage and violent anti-Israeli protests.

Susskind is accused of committing a racist act, harming religious sensitivities, supporting a terrorist group and endangering life by stoning an Arab car.

The offences carry a maximum 26-year sentence.

"I regret nothing," she shouted to reporters at her first court appearance last month, wearing a yellow shirt with the black clenched fist of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Wednesday's ruling followed a decision by the army to charge an Israeli soldier who shot and wounded seven Arabs in Hebron earlier this year with attempted murder.

The army said Tuesday a military court decided Noam Friedman, a 22-year-old conscript, was now fit to stand trial after ruling last February that he must be confined to a psychiatric hospital and would not be charged.

"Because of the clear public interest in this case and because in contrast to the past Friedman is now fit to stand trial, an indictment was issued," the army said in a statement.

Israel handed over 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian forces in January. Its troops remained in 20 per cent of Hebron to guard 400 Jewish settlers who live and study in the heart of the town of more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Hebron is revered by Muslims and Jews as the burial place of the Biblical Abraham.

# Technology and Torah fused at Israel institute

TEL AVIV (R) — What do you do if you're an Orthodox Jewish space scientist and urgently need to send a signal to your malfunctioning satellite on the Jewish Sabbath, when religious law forbids you to use electricity?

The solution might be found in a cluttered stone cottage in Jerusalem, the unlikely nexus between modern technology and the 3,000-year-old compendium of Jewish law known as Halacha.

The engineers and rabbis of the Institute of Science and Halacha will consult their toolkits and the Torah to devise a Sabbath computer keyboard so you can tune up your orbiting spacecraft with a rabbinical seal of approval.

"We don't modify Jewish law to meet changing technology. We modify technology to meet Jewish law," said David Bannett, an electrical engineer and consultant to the institute.

Rabbi Levi Yitzhak Halperin, an ultra-Orthodox Jew whose bright, deep-set eyes are framed by a black skullcap and a flowing white beard, is the institute's Halacha chief and theological guide.

Seated in a cramped office with peeling paint and polyester curtains, Mr. Halperin probes leather-bound Hebrew and Aramaic tomes to elucidate ancient parallels to modern dilemmas ranging from human cloning to carrying corpses on aeroplanes — a problem of ritual purity for members of Judaism's priestly caste.

"We are now working on electric wheelchairs for the Sabbath," said Mr. Halperin. "Also on wheelchairs that work on air pressure."

The institute consecrates a great deal of energy to the use of electricity on the Sabbath, the divinely ordained day of rest stretching from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday.

On the Sabbath, the Torah forbids Jews from engaging in 39 specific Biblical categories of "work," including lighting a fire — extended in today's world to a prohibition on flicking on and off light switches or starting a car.

The electricity ban doesn't mean Orthodox Jews sit around in the dark all Sabbath. Lights left on before Friday sundown may remain on. A non-Jew can flip the switch. Or a timer can be set before the Sabbath to turn off the lights at a specific hour.

But the institute has patented a smarter gadget which opens up new horizons for Sabbath electricity — the "indirect-action switch."

It works by extension of a simple principle, the Halacha permits one to block out a light on the Sabbath by covering it with a shutter.

The switch is essentially a light-sensitive electrical circuit that is left on before the Sabbath and is continually interrupted by a tiny light that pulsates about every tenth of a second.

As long as the light continues to hit the circuit, any appliance connected to it will remain off.

If a religious Jew wants to turn on the appliance, he flicks a switch that draws a shutter over the pulsing light. The circuit is then complete and power flows to the appliance.

"Separating the person from the final action makes him not legally responsible," Mr. Bannett said. "You can avoid the problem by getting around it."

The institute's engineers have wired the switches into emergency telephones, hospital call buttons and cardkeys for electric hotel doors.

"We can put it into computer keyboards so you can have a Sabbath-observant Jewish satellite," chuckled Mr. Bannett.

The institute's rebuttal to the switch's critics — who say it amounts to pulling the wool over God's eyes — is as dextrous as the device itself.

"There are loopholes in the law. Is this fooling God? No. The loopholes are god-given loopholes," Mr. Bannett said.

# Saudi Arabia determined to throw out illegal aliens

## Interior ministry says 'those helping or sheltering' them face up to 6 years in jail and $26,700 fine

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is determined to drive up to 100,000 illegal aliens — mainly Asians — out of the kingdom, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

In a report on Tuesday night, it quoted an interior ministry statement warning those helping or sheltering illegal aliens of jail terms of up to six years and a $26,700 fine.

"The [interior ministry] source asserts the primary role of citizens and their responsibility in [helping] implement penalties against overstayers and those residing in the land of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia illegally," the statement said.

"The kingdom prohibits sheltering overstayers, concealing or rendering any assistance that would contribute to their illegal stay," it said.

The statement said the penalties applied to individuals who fail to report illegal aliens, companies employing them and landlords sheltering them.

In July the labour ministry granted an amnesty to foreigners who entered Saudi Arabia on a visit or to perform the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage, but stayed longer than visas permitted. It said up to 100,000 people, mainly Asians, were in the country illegally.

Some one million Muslims come from abroad annually for Hajj.

The campaign is designed to help solve current labour problems, in line with the country's commitment to provide jobs for an extra 659,900 Saudis by the year 2000. Foreigners make up one-third of Saudi Arabia's estimated 18 million population.

In 1995 more than 100,000 illegal foreign workers left the country after authorities gave them a month to leave or face punishment.

## COLUMN

### Attempted theft of Versace's ashes

MILAN (R) — Unidentified prowlers broke into the graveyard chapel in Moltrasio where Italian designer Gianni Versace's ashes are kept, the mayor of the small northern Italian town said Wednesday. They got into the cemetery Saturday night and forced the padlock on the chapel door but fled when an alarm went off, Celestino Villa said. Nothing was damaged or stolen, he said.

### Di, Dodi blessed by clairvoyant — witness

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana took millionaire playboy Dodi Al-Fayed — said to be the new man in her life — has taken him to see a clairvoyant. The couple flew by helicopter from London to the suburban home of psychic Rita Rogers in Chesterfield, northern England, for a consultation lasting an hour and 46 minutes, according to the mass-circulation Sun. After landing in a field behind the home of the clairvoyant, they sought guidance on their future before flying off again, the newspaper claimed. A witness said, "Di was grinning all over her face and looked like she'd had good news."

### Demi Moore world's sexiest woman — survey

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Demi Moore is the world's sexiest woman, according to a survey published by Shape Magazine. Among 4,000 people polled, 20 per cent said being in shape, healthy and having a positive personality were essential to being sexy. Model Cindy Crawford came in second in the magazine's sexy ranking.

### Hoffman, Allen will collaborate on new movie in '2005'

BONN (R) — Actor Dustin Hoffman has agreed to a part in a Woody Allen film, but not until 2005 because of a heavy workload. In an interview in the German daily Tagesspiegel to appear Wednesday, Allen says Hoffmann told him the offer of a part in an unidentified film was "great" if not timely. "That's great. I've got six films still to do, but in 2005 I'll have time," he said.

### Fleetwood Mac launches new album

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Fleetwood Mac of 1970s fame will put out a new album next week titled "The Dance" and will set off on a U.S. tour one month later, according to USA Today. The group had broken up in 1987 but got back together for the new album. Lead singer Stevie Nicks said the 20th anniversary of their "Rumours" album made the members nostalgic.

### Domingo makes a comeback after last week's soar throat

CROATIA (R) — Placido Domingo sang about 20 extracts from his repertoire, proving he was in good voice again after having had to break off a recital in the Chilean capital Santiago last week. The Spanish tenor sang airs from Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and Gounod in front of 4,500 spectators on a square in the old town of split, which is celebrating the 1,700th anniversary of its founding by Roman Emperor Diocletian. Thousands more watched the recital on giant screens put up along the seafront of the Adriatic port. Domingo had broken off his recital in Santiago due to a sore throat aggravated by thick fog.